

# PINK

THE 65p

Home of Hampshire sport Saturday, January 14, 2017

Puel's  
reaction  
to latest  
defeat

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**BURNLEY 1 SAINTS 0**



# POINTLESS

Saints suffer fourth consecutive league loss

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Stags held by  
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Allen's doing a  
spot of pruning

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How to fix the  
FA Cup

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@saintstravel



PINK

SAINTS

## Spurs turn up the heat

HARRY Kane plundered a hat-trick as Tottenham swept past West Brom 4-0 to move second in the Premier League.

With title rivals Liverpool and Manchester City both not in action until Sunday, Spurs kept the pressure up on leaders Chelsea with an impressive display at White Hart Lane.

Kane, who sat out the FA Cup win over Aston Villa after the birth of his first child, opened the scoring after 12 minutes, before an own goal from Gareth McAuley made it 2-0 in the 26th minute.

The England striker converted a cross from Kyle Walker after 77 minutes and completed his hat-trick with eight minutes left.

It was Spurs' sixth straight Premier League win, which put them a point ahead of the Reds and four behind Chelsea, while West Brom suffered a first defeat at White Hart Lane since 2012.

Arsenal moved into third, above Liverpool on goal difference, after a 4-0 win at Swansea to hand new Swans boss Paul Clement a losing start at home and send his side bottom of the table.

In-form French striker Olivier Giroud broke the deadlock seven minutes before half-time when he stabbed in from close range.

The Gunners doubled their lead after 56 minutes when Alex Iwobi's cross looped in off Swansea midfielder Jack Cork.

Just over 10 minutes later, defender Kyle Naughton then also put the ball into his own net, with a close-range effort from Alexis Sanchez wrapping things up with 18 minutes left.

Vicarage Road was full of emotional tributes to former Watford manager Graham Taylor, who died on Thursday following a suspected heart attack, ahead of the visit of Middlesbrough.

The match finished goalless, although Hornets' substitute Tom Cleverley hit the woodwork late on.

Stoke heaped more pressure on struggling Sunderland with a 3-1 win at the Stadium of Light.

Austrian frontman Marko Arnautovic opened the scoring in the 15th minute and then doubled Stoke's lead to finish off a slick passing move seven minutes later.

Ex-Saint Peter Crouch nodded in a third after 35 minutes and, although Jermain Defoe reduced the deficit five minutes before the break, there was no way back for David Moyes' side.

West Ham put the saga of Dimitri Payet's strike behind them with a 3-0 win over Crystal Palace and former boss Sam Allardyce at the London Stadium.

Sofiane Feghouli gave the Hammers the lead after 66 minutes from close range, before Andy Carroll cracked in an acrobatic volley with 12 minutes left and Manuel Lanzini added a late third.

BURNLEY 1 SAINTS 0



SO CLOSE: Burnley goalkeeper Tom Heaton denies Saints

Adam Leitch



SAINTS are without a Premier League point for almost a month after a 1-0 defeat at Burnley condemned them to a fourth straight top flight loss.

Claude Puel's side last tasted victory in the league when they beat Bournemouth on December 18, but have since slumped into a horrible run of form despite their EFL Cup heroics against Liverpool.

It was a familiar story at Burnley as a lack of cutting edge meant they were unable to capitalise on their periods of dominance before they conceded an unfortunate goal as Joey Barton's deflected free kick beat Fraser Forster and meant they returned from Turf Moor empty handed.

Saints had the first sniff after four minutes as Ryan Bertrand fed in a low cross from the left. Shane Long just got in front of Stephen Ward to flick it towards goal, but the Burnley defender was in close enough attention to block.

Dusan Tadic whipped in a dangerous cross from the other side just minutes later, with Nathan

## TEAM NEWS

CLAUDE Puel made three changes to the team that defeated Liverpool for the trip to Burnley.

Steven Davis was ruled out through injury, with Jordy Clasie left on the bench after feeling tightness in his leg during the EFL Cup semi-final victory over the Reds in midweek.

James Ward-Prowse and Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg were the players drafted in.

The other change came in attack with Jay Rodriguez among the subs on the

visit to his former club, with Shane Long brought in to lead the line.

SAINTS: Forster, Cedric, Yoshida, van Dijk, Bertrand, Romeu, Ward-Prowse, Hojbjerg, Tadic, Redmond, Long.

Subs: Taylor, Stephens, Martina, Reed, Clasie, Sims, Rodriguez.

BURNLEY: Heaton, Lowton, Keane, Mee, Ward, Hendrick, Defour, Marney, Boyd, Barnes, Gray.

Subs: Robinson, Flanagan, Tarkowski, Barton, Darikwa, Kightly, Vokes.

Redmond in the area trying to guide a header on target, but again Burnley were able to deflect it behind.

Burnley first managed any pressure on the Saints backline on 13 minutes, but it fizzled out as Ben Mee looped a header wide from Steven Defour's corner.

The game settled into a pattern that made it more of a war of attrition than a thrilling footballing spectacle.

It was always likely to be that way with Burnley making the most of what they have with an uncompromising style that made them hard to break down but also meant they were not going to take undue risks pushing forward.

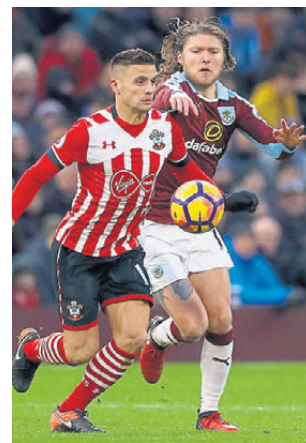
Saints knew they had to re-

spond by matching the work rate and being tough to break down. They were also not afraid to play the ball in behind early with Long trying to turn the defence as a willing runner.

Maya Yoshida became the first player in the book on 24 minutes for a handball on the halfway line which prevented Andre Gray from making a quick break.

Saints were asking a question of referee Paul Tierney when Oriol Romeu went down holding his face after being caught by the flailing arm of Ashley Barnes but he awarded a free kick and nothing more.

Mee tried his luck with a shot on the turn as a headed clearance dropped to him just outside



ONE STEP AHEAD: Dusan Tadic

the area on the half hour mark. It was well struck but went wide.

Tadic had the best chance up until that point four minutes later as he had time and space to measure his shot as the ball reached him at the far post. He fired low across goal hoping for the bottom corner but directed it wide.

The Serbian had the chance for another effort from a similar position, but this time on the volley, on 39 minutes. His cleanly struck



PINK

SAINTS



GOING FOR GOAL: Dusan Tadic tries his luck



HIGH FLIERS: Burnley's George Boyd and Southampton's Ryan Bertrand



CRACKS IN THE WALL... Burnley's Joey Barton (obscured) scores his second-half winner from a free kick

effort looked to have been creeping narrowly beyond the far corner but Mee was beyond keeper Tom Heaton and able to clear to make sure.

Tadic had a shot blocked after James Ward-Prowse's header which was easy for Heaton as Saints just started to increase the pressure before half-time.

However, they weren't able to make it pay and a fairly flat first period ended with the game goal-less.

The first meaningful action of the second half saw Dean Marney booked for a foul on Tadic.

Jeff Hendrick tried to make something happen for Burnley with a shot from 25 yards but it never came close to troubling Fraser Forster.

The Saints keeper did have to make his first save of the game on 55 minutes as Steven Defour whipped a central free kick from 25 yards on target but it was a relatively comfortable stop for Forster.

Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg drove in a shot from the edge of the box as Saints pressed forward but Mee was again on hand on intercept it.

Redmond had half a chance as he was found with a left wing cross but it took a slightly awkward bounce in front of him and he steered his shot from just inside the area wide of the target.

Dean Marney forced Forster into a slightly more pressing save on 64 minutes with a drilled low effort from 20 yards but the Saints stopper got down smartly to his

right to make the stop.

There were few arguments when Romeu went in the book after scything down Defour as he tried to break forward.

Saints made a first change on 67 minutes with Jay Rodriguez replacing Tadic. The former Burnley man went through the middle with Redmond and Long playing slightly withdrawn roles either side of him.

Long had a decent chance coming in from the left to meet a right wing cross by Cedric Soares but he could only head into the side netting.

Burnley made a double switch with Joey Barton and Sam Vokes coming on for Marney and Defour.

Saints created a bit of panic in

the Clarets backline from a free kick but in the end it was hacked clear.

There was a horrible moment for Saints on 78 minutes as they fell behind.

Referee Tierney awarded Burnley a central free kick 25 yards out for what he saw as a foul by Romeu on Boyd.

Barton stepped up just minutes after coming on and drilled in a low shot that took a significant deflection off of the wall to leave Forster wrong footed and give Burnley the lead.

Puel responded immediately with Josh Sims coming on for Redmond.

Bertrand tried to bring his side back into it with an effort from distance but Heaton got his body behind it to save.

Burnley made a defensive change with three minutes remaining as they looked to hold on with James Tarkowski replacing Gray.

Virgil van Dijk got his head on an inswinging corner from Ward-Prowse but could only direct it straight at Heaton.

The Burnley stopper made a superb double save late on, firstly to deny Rodriguez with a low shot from outside the area and then to recover quickly to just keep out the follow-up from Sims at the near post and that proved to be enough to secure the win.

## Defeat 'difficult to accept'

CLAUDE Puel said it was "difficult to accept" Saints' defeat to Burnley as they again suffered from a lack of clinical finishing in the final third.

Saints had plenty of the game at Turf Moor, but couldn't find a way through Burnley no matter what they tried.

In the end it cost them again, as Joey Barton's free kick proved the difference between the sides and condemned Saints to a fourth Premier League defeat on the bounce.

A frustrated Puel said: "It is difficult of course to accept this. You can see this game with quality.

"It was a difficult game against a difficult opponent with long balls, second balls, free kicks.

### Strange

"We made strong work to resist without opportunity for the opponent and just one free kick, strange free kick for them to win this game. It is a big disappointment with this good work.

"The attitude, the same spirit, the same quality, like the game against Liverpool, but we didn't deserve about this good play.

"Of course it is two different games with two different opponent and play but we can do very good work today and miss many chances, Dusan in the first half and also the second half, the opponent goalkeeper made good saves and maintain Burnley in the game.

"It is difficult after this game to tell other things. A lot of opportunities, no chances for the opponent, and it's difficult to tell other things."



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goals



# BURNLEY V SAINTS PICTURE SPECIAL



**SIGN HERE:** Southampton's Shane Long signs autographs for fans prior to the Premier League match at Turf Moor



Saints fans await the arrival of the players



**UP FOR IT:** Burnley's Jeff Hendrick and Southampton's Maya Yoshida battle for the ball



**BEST FOOT FORWARD:** Dusan Tadic battles for the ball



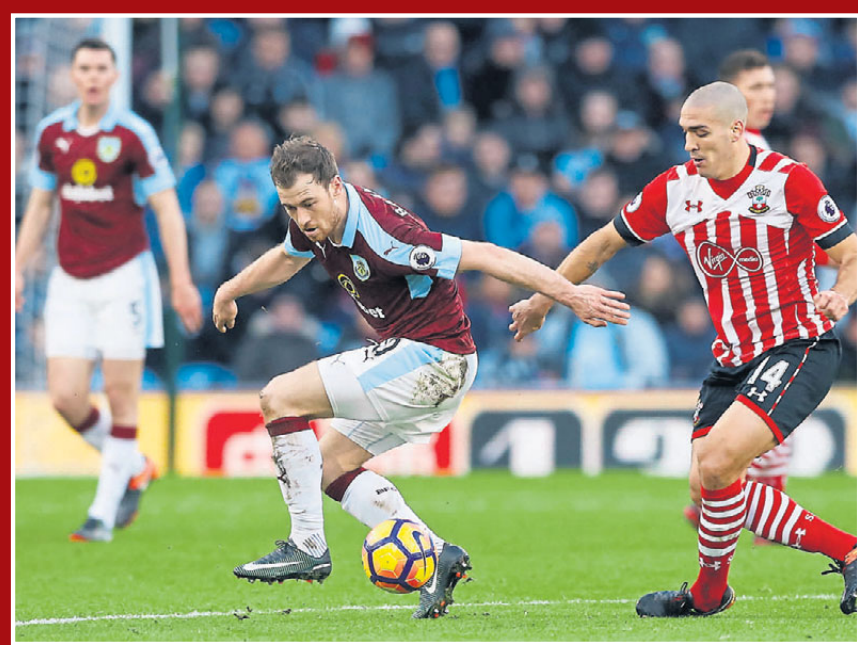
**BLOCKED OFF:** Burnley's Andre Gray (left) and Southampton's Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg



Burnley's Joey Barton celebrates scoring the winner as Saints look on



# BURNLEY V SAINTS PICTURE SPECIAL



EYE ON THE BALL: Burnley's Ashley Barnes and Southampton's Oriol Romeu fight for possession



FULL STRETCH: Southampton's Shane Long nicks the ball from Burnley's Michael Keane



DELIVERY: Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg sends in a cross



ON THE BALL: Southampton's Virgil van Dijk

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## Wasting no time ...

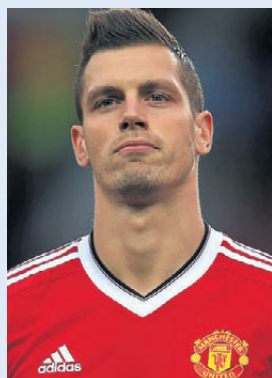
The winter transfer window is only a fortnight old - yet clubs across the land have wasted little time in making bold moves to improve their squads.

Here the Sports Pink looks at the most eye-catching switches to date.

### OSCAR

CHELSEA TO SHANGHAI SIPG

The most stunning deal of the month so far saw Brazilian player Oscar move in a £52million transfer that showed the ambition of the Chinese Super League. Unlike others who have been lured to China, Oscar, at 25, is still very much in his prime and while Antonio Conte's Blues had seen little value in him, he would have had suitors across Europe. Oscar's contract with Chelsea was also up next year and the fee they recouped was therefore staggering.



Morgan Schneiderlin

### MORGAN SCHNEIDERLIN

MANCHESTER UNITED TO EVERTON

Another heavyweight cast aside one of their midfielders when United agreed an initial £20million deal with Everton to offload France international Schneiderlin. Jose Mourinho said he was both "sad and happy" that the 27-year-old would be leaving Old Trafford for regular first-team football under his former Saints manager Ronald Koeman. The Toffees desperately needed reinforcements this month and Schneiderlin will add more steel in their engine room.

### GABRIEL JESUS

PALMEIRAS TO MANCHESTER CITY

Okay, so this one was agreed some time ago.

*Continued on facing page*

# PINK

# CHERRIES FOOTBALL

# Tigers put bite

ABEL Hernandez struck twice as Hull beat Bournemouth 3-1 to secure their first Premier League win since early November and climb off the foot of the table.

Uruguay international Hernandez scored in each half after Junior Stanislas' early penalty had given Bournemouth the lead, while Tyrone Mings' own goal in the second period gave Hull a two-goal cushion.

Hull registered their first top-flight win in ten matches in head coach Marco Silva's first league game in charge and exacted sweet revenge on Bournemouth, having been thrashed 6-1 by the visitors on the south coast in October.

Hull received clearance in time for new signings Oumar Niasse and Evandro to make their debuts off the bench in the second period, while Hernandez was making his first start since recently returning from a two-month lay-off due to hernia surgery.

Bournemouth boss Eddie Howe, criticised by a section of Cherries fans for making 11 changes for last week's FA Cup defeat at Millwall, made nine more in reverting back to his regular line-up and handed goalkeeper Artur Boruc his 100th Premier League appearance.

Hull, whose last league success had been a 2-1 home win against Southampton on November 6, made a wretched start, falling behind in the third minute to Stanislas' penalty after Harry Maguire bundled over Ryan Fraser in the area.

Referee Martin Atkinson did not hesitate in pointing to the spot and Stanislas lashed his spot-kick into the roof of the net for his first goal since firing a brace in Bournemouth's autumn thrashing of the Tigers.

Hull were lucky not to have fallen 2-0 down in the 22nd minute when Benik Afobe failed to capitalise after Michael Dawson misjudged the bounce of a ball over the top.

The home side had not had one effort at goal before Robert Snodgrass volleyed over from 30 yards just after the half-hour mark, but having played second fiddle they turned the game around with a 32nd-minute equaliser.

Andrew Robertson swung over a brilliant cross to the far post and Hernandez, also on target in last week's FA Cup win against Swansea, headed home his first league goal since August.

Momentum quickly swung Hull's way and they could have gone in at the break in front, but Ryan Mason's shot was blocked by Ryan Fraser and Sam Clucas pulled his effort wide.

Five minutes into the second half though, the Tigers went



AFC Bournemouth's Junior Stanislas (left) scores the opening goal of the game



Hull City's Robert Snodgrass (left) and AFC Bournemouth's Harry Arter (right) battle for the ball

ahead. Snodgrass fed Hernandez on the right edge of the area and the striker jinked inside before unleashing a thumping left-footed shot beyond Boruc and inside the far post.

Mason went close with a rising 25-yard effort as Hull continued to dominate and their enterprise was further rewarded in the 62nd minute when Tom Huddlestone's shot from the edge of the area

was inadvertently turned home by Mings.

Bournemouth gathered themselves and Jack Wilshere was denied twice in quick succession by Hull goalkeeper Eldin Jakupovic, who kept out shots from just inside the box, the second at full stretch.

Hull's new Brazilian signing Evandro replaced Snodgrass to make his debut midway through the second half before Bournemouth right-back Adam Smith spurned another chance for the visitors after being played in by Wilshere.

Two-goal hero Hernandez was given a rousing send-off when replaced by Everton loanee Niasse in the closing stages as Hull held on for victory and kept their survival hopes alive.



# PINK CHERRIES FOOTBALL

## on the Cherries



Hull City's Michael Dawson (left) and AFC Bournemouth's Tokelo Rantie (right) battle for the ball

Cherries' Junior Stanislas (right) celebrates his goal with teammates

from facing page

But if Jesus can live up to the hype then perhaps this will be seen in future years as this window's outstanding transfer: City have paid £27million for a 19-year-old who scored on his Brazil debut back in September having helped his country to an Olympic title in their homeland one month earlier. He could reinvigorate City's season.

### WILFRED NDIDI

GENK TO LEICESTER

The champions hope they have finally landed N'Golo Kante's replacement by bringing Ndidi, 20, to the east Midlands for a £15million fee. Leicester's struggles this year can in part be attributed to the loss of Kante - just look at how his current club Chelsea are benefiting from the midfielder's energy.

### JOEY BARTON

UNATTACHED TO BURNLEY

Twelve months ago Barton was on Burnley's books and about to help the Clarets to a Championship title by inspiring them to a 23-game unbeaten run. He initially turned down the chance to stay on for the Premier League tilt, preferring to join Rangers in Scotland, but an unsuccessful stint left him out of work again and the Clarets were only too happy to bring him back to East Lancashire. If Barton can replicate his Championship form, Burnley will remain well clear of relegation strife.



Joey Barton



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PINK

● FIFA's decision to expand the World Cup to 48 teams from 2026 will give more nations the opportunity to make their debuts on the game's biggest stage.

FIFA is yet to reveal how the 16 extra qualification places will be allocated, but each continent is set to benefit from them, with Africa and Asia in particular expecting a significant increase on their current opportunities.

Based on the current FIFA rankings, the Sports Pink picks out one team from each continent who could be in line to benefit most from the finals' impending new format:

## ICELAND

FIFA president Gianni Infantino cited Iceland's stunning performance at Euro 2016 as a good reason to make more World Cup places available. The closest they came to reaching the finals was in 2014, when they finished second in Group D but lost a two-legged qualification play-off against Croatia. Currently ranked 12th in Europe, Iceland are one of the nations who stand to benefit most.

## BURKINA FASO

The Stallions may not have reached a World Cup finals, but they came agonisingly close in 2014 when they lost a play-off against Algeria on away goals - with the Algerians going on to push Germany to extra-time in the last 16. Currently ranked the seventh best team in Africa, they reached the final of the 2013 African Nations Cup.

## UZBEKISTAN

Having played their first match in 1992 following the break-up of the Soviet Union, Uzbekistan advanced quickly, narrowly missing out on qualifying for the 2006 finals after a controversial loss to Bahrain, and reaching the fourth round of Asian qualifying in both 2010 and 2014. Continuing their climb up the ranks, they are currently ranked fifth best on their continent.

## PANAMA

Panama came close to advancing to a qualifying play-off against New Zealand in 2014 before two stoppage time goals by the United States saw them eliminated from the final round of CONCACAF qualifying. As well as consistently reaching the final group stage, Panama have also finished runners-up in both the 2005 and 2013 Gold Cups.

## VENEZUELA

The perennial whipping boys of South American football, Venezuela are the only one of the major nations on their continent never to have qualified for a World Cup finals, but they have shown signs of stirring, finishing fourth at the 2011 Copa America and reaching the quarter-finals in 2016.

## TAHITI

Tahiti stand to benefit most from any increase in Oceania's World Cup finals opportunities, having clearly established themselves as the continent's third best team behind Australia - who currently play in Asian qualifying - and New Zealand. Winners of the 2012 OFC Nations Cup, they subsequently competed at the 2013 Confederations Cup in Brazil.

# The life and crimes of controversial Nick



Nick Kyrgios

Nick Kyrgios courted more controversy when he was pictured wearing a 'F\*\*\* Donald Trump' T-shirt at a press conference in Sydney.

Here the Sports Pink looks at some of the controversies during the 21-year-old's career.

## March 2015

Stan Wawrinka was in Kyrgios' firing line at the 2015 Rogers Cup with a crude remark about his girlfriend. The ATP fined Kyrgios 10,000 US dollars as well as handing down a 28-day tour suspended sentence.

## June 2015

After a number of controversial calls went against him, Kyrgios went in to meltdown mode during his fourth-round match against Richard Gasquet at Wimbledon. He got a code violation for swearing, he complained of "external bull\*\*\*\*", argued with the umpire over whether he was taking too long to change his socks and hurled his racket into the air.

## July 2015

Kyrgios - who has a Greek father and a Malaysian mother - labelled Australian swimming great Dawn Fraser a "blatant racist" after she responded to his Wimbledon the-

atrics by urging him and compatriot Bernard Tomic to "go back where their parents came from".

## July 2016

Claiming he was more interested in catching Pokemon than playing tennis riled some fans. Kyrgios wrote on Twitter that he got more of a thrill from watching a Pokemon egg hatch than converting a break point.

## October 2016

Kyrgios was banned from tennis for eight weeks after appearing to give up during a straight sets defeat at the Shanghai Masters.

# Finally, Romsey Town see the light

By Wendy Gee



AFTER eight months and a lot of hard work, Romsey Town have seen the light!

The Sydenhams One club's antiquated floodlights and 60-year-old wiring have finally been replaced. Vice-chairman Phil Rowland said: "It's taken eight months, two grant applications (one to Test Valley Borough Council and one to The Football Foundation), kind additional financial assistance from our main sponsor Mackoy Ltd, two separate installation crews and many, many hours putting it together.

"And now finally we have new floodlights!

"This may not mean much to the average supporter, but to the club it's an essential part of being able to play at the FA level Step 6 that we do.

"Every two years we have to undertake an FA and League ground grading inspection and there is no doubt whatsoever we would have failed this year on our floodlights.

## Requirements

"Due to the sheer number of additional league and various cup matches being played during the midweek nowadays, it was critical that we are able to host these games as part of our commitment to the competitions in which we take part.

"The lights themselves have been designed to not only meet



Romsey Town boss Andy Samuels

the requirements of the league we currently play in, but also meet the requirements of leagues

several steps higher in the event that we ever progress through the league structure."

Romsey's new lights lower down onto the pitch for easy maintenance access and have the capacity for two additional lights per pole should Town ever get to the higher reaches of non-League.

But that is for the future.

"For now, we're just more than pleased not to have to turn our lights on six hours before an evening kick-off with fingers crossed and prayers offered up that they'll eventually turn on!" smiled Rowland.

Fittingly, Romsey have made a bright start to 2017 results-wise with Andy Samuels' side achieving back-to-back wins over East Cowes Vics and Fleet Spurs.

With their floodlights beaming down, Town outshone Fleet 4-0 at the Bypass Ground through Wayne Boud (2), an own goal and Tom Donaldson.

## Energetic

They kept up the good work on the Isle of Wight last Saturday, coming back from behind to beat East Cowes 5-1 with another energetic performance.

Boud had equalised before Vics had their goalkeeper dismissed for deliberate handball outside the area.

Josh Harvey, Jamie Way, Brett Stanley and sub Daryll Phillips piled on the misery for East Cowes who were reduced to nine men following another red card..

Delighted boss Samuels said afterwards: "Creative, energetic and quality are the three words I used before today's game and I'm very pleased the lads did exactly that following on from Tuesday's performance and result."



# PINK NON LEAGUE FOOTBALL

## AFC TOTTON 1 BARNSTAPLE TOWN 1

# Stags entertain in basement draw

Wendy Gee



A 239 CROWD could not have asked for better entertainment at a bleak, chilly Testwood Stadium this afternoon.

But, alas for AFC Totton, they had to content themselves with a 1-1 Southern One South & West basement draw against Barnstaple Town despite creating chances galore.

Totton brought another young AFC Bournemouth player into the mix with Tyler Cordner partnering Dave Allen in central defence.

As always, Totton's young side were full of running, but it was Barnstaple who showed the first snippet of quality when Niall Heeney skipped inside and curled a shot narrowly over.

The Devon visitors, buoyed by successive league and cup victories, kept up the pressure and Stags keeper Charlie Searle got down smartly to turn away Ross Middleton's 18-yard pile driver.

A minute later Totton were close to going ahead when Mike Gosney escaped down the left and delivered an enticing cross which just eluded Nathaniel Sherborne as he challenged goalkeeper Steve Oliver.

Totton's experienced attacking pair looked to have had better luck on 20 minutes when Gosney drove straight through the heart of the visitors' defence and Oliver parried his stinging shot straight to Sherborne who swept the ball home.

But the linesman's flag had been raised and, despite the protests from the Totton players, the goal was not given.

But the Stags refused to be downhearted and found the net



AFC Totton's Charlie Gunson celebrates his goal. Picture: Stuart Martin

again, this time legitimately, after Nick Watts' deep cross from the right had been cleared for a corner on the far side.

Barnstaple failed to clear, Allen launched it back in from the right and Charlie GUNSON arrived at the far post to nod it in.

With Gosney and Watts switching flanks, the former teed-up Marley Ridge inside the six-yard box, but he was crowded out, getting clattered in the process.

Watts then powered along the left by-line and it needed a strong hand from Oliver to bat the ball away at his near post.

Barnstaple didn't threaten again until the 45th minute when Liam Gregory's ball in was only half headed away, but Lee Francis's follow-up was straight at

Searle.

Gosney was showing real appetite for the game and set-up what looked a certain second for Totton soon after half-time but, under pressure, Sherborne scooped the ball over from close range.

The Stags then had to soak up a spell of Barnstaple pressure and, as the hour mark approached, Searle made amends for a weak punch with an outstanding save to keep out Craig Allen's deflected shot.

With 65 minutes gone, Totton boss Louis Langdown made his first substitution, replacing Watts with Ashley Jarvis whose first contribution was to force a corner.

Gosney swung the ball in and the towering Cordner – having a

strong debut in Totton colours – headed narrowly over.

Jarvis was soon involved again as the visitors were penalised for handball on the edge of the box, but Gosney slammed the free-kick into the defensive wall.

And, with Barnstaple becoming overrun, Jarvis sent in a dangerous first-time cross from the right which Gosney so nearly met with a brave diving header.

Ridge set-up Gunston as yet another Totton chance went begging and they were cruelly punished on 77 minutes when the visitors pulled a goal back.

It was a frustratingly simple goal with a left-wing corner delivered straight to sub Scott SHARP who struck gold with a flicked near-post header.

Connor York, another Cherries youngster having a superb game for the Stags, hit the top of the bar with a cross-shot before the keeper denied him with his legs.

Still Totton kept coming and the crowd could hardly believe their eyes when Sherborne slipped the ball across from the right for Gosney, but Oliver somehow made a crucial intervention to snuff out the danger.

Searle played his part late on, stopping a trio of half-chances from Barnstaple's James Blake, twice, and Sharp.

## Sam on the way out

YET another Gosport Borough player is heading for the exit door:

Former captain Sam Pearce will be leaving the troubled Privett Park club on January 18 when his loan deal with Farnborough expires.

Pearce tweeted: "I wish Gosport Borough all the best for the future and hope the club can return to good times sooner rather than later."

"Thank you to the supporters who have always been great with me through the good and the bad. Also like to say a huge thank you to all the players I have shared a dressing room with. I have made friends for life."

The ex-Havant, Bognor and Salisbury defender gave special thanks to Borough's assistant



Warren Bentley

manager Mick Catlin, describing him as "the glue that held us together."

Pearce follows the likes of Martin Rice, Adam Wilde, Chris Flood, Jamie Barron and Dan Wooden out of the Privett Park door.

Three other players – Warren Bentley, TJ Cuthbertson and Mike Carter – are looking to get away from Borough, who are precariously placed just two points above the National League South drop zone.

Gosport, on a run of five straight defeats, have no game this weekend but return to action on Tuesday at home to AFC Bournemouth's development squad in the Hampshire FA Senior Cup quarter-finals.

The full quarter-final line-up that evening is: Hartley Wintney v AFC Totton (7.30), Gosport Borough v AFC Bournemouth, Sholing v Winchester City, Basingstoke Town v AFC Stoneham.

## CITY INDEBTED TO GOOD NEIGHBOUR AS THEY BOUNCE BACK

WINCHESTER City obtained another valuable Evo-Stik Division 1 S&W victory when they beat Larkhall 2-1 away from home.

Seeking to get back to winning ways following their defeat at Evesham on Wednesday, City took the lead in the first minute when Craig Feeney broke clear on the left and set-up Howard NEIGHBOUR whose effort went in off the post.

Feeney again broke clear but this time his effort was narrowly wide.

Jamie Lyons, following a free-kick,

and Joe Briggs both had efforts for their respective sides that went narrowly wide.

However, in the 24th minute Winchester made it 2-0 when Briggs put a good through ball for FEENEY to score.

Larkhall reduced their arrears when, following a cross from Lyons, Ben BROOKS nipped in to score.

James Stinson had a great chance to level the scoreS but having done the hard work his effort was wide.

Before half-time both goalkeepers

were called into action to make saves but it remainED 2-1 to Winchester at the interval.

In a goalless second-half James Stinson, Joe Tumelty and Jamie Lyons had half chances for Larkhall but their efforts went wide.

Adam Roberts had a shot blocked by the goalkeepers legs. on a couple of occasions Winchester almost scored following goalmouth scrambles.

However as the second-half went on Winchester looked increasingly likely to hold onto the lead.



PINK

## NON LEAGUE FOOTBALL

## Ref emails to say 'I got it wrong'

REFEREE Stephen Graham has apologised for making a mistake in Salisbury's 2-1 home defeat to North Leigh last Saturday.

The Totton-based official, who was at the centre of criticism from Whites' fans, emailed the club in reference to the foul on Justin Bennett he dismissed which led to the visitors' equaliser. George Seacole scored the goal on 71 minutes.

Graham acknowledges that a free-kick should have been awarded and he shouldn't have missed "such a blatant foul".

Seacole went on to score a winner eight minutes later to halt Whites' six-match winning run in the



Steve Claridge

Southern One South & West.

Salisbury boss Steve Claridge has since responded to the apology.

He said: "I think it's good of him to admit he got it wrong and we appreciate the apology, but it doesn't change the fact that it's not the first time he has refereed a game in which he has made a poor decision, and the result of that has cost us."

In a frustrating week for the Whites, their scheduled Southern League Challenge Cup third round clash at Shortwood United was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch at Meadowbank.

The tie has been rearranged for next Tuesday, January 17.

● Got a football story for us? If so, email echosport@dailyecho.co.uk or, alternatively, contact 02380 424515.



Geoff Dunn

## Dunn's on way back to fitness

ALRESFORD Town's former Winchester City forward Geoff Dunn is on his way back to fitness.

After a sparkling start to the season, Dunn has been dogged by groin trouble, reducing him to just seven appearances so far.

But the good news is that he is due to return to training

next week.

"Geoff's been out for four months," said Magpies boss Richard Luffman.

"He's done a bit on his groin in the pelvic area and it's given him loads of trouble.

"He's seen chiropractors and physios, but nothing's quite worked yet.

"But he's pain-free at the

moment and he'll be back training next week.

"To think we've got a player like Geoff to add to a squad that's on a ten-match unbeaten run is really good news.

"We've only got Tom Sands who's an out-an-out centre-forward, but Geoff can play there or in the No10 role."

## A long overdue award for Town

By Wendy Gee



ALRESFORD Town's Sydenhams Premier Division club-of-the-month award for December is richly deserved.

In fact you could say it is long overdue.

As manager Richard Luffman proudly pointed out, the Magpies went into today's home game against Brockenhurst on a ten-match unbeaten league run (seven wins and three draws) and have only tasted defeat once – a 3-2 FA Vase exit at Corinthian – since the beginning of November.

In their latest success, a 5-2 league romp at Newport IoW last Saturday, they led 4-0 at half-time thanks to Tom Richards, a Keelan Sainsbury own goal, Sam Burt and Steve Hall, pictured.

"For 45 minutes we were as good as we've been all season," said Luffman. "We absolutely hammered Newport.

"Their fans were saying we were the best team they've seen down there this season. We were 4-0 up at half-time and it could have been six or seven."

Port made a game of it as Connor Kelly and Jared Wetherick halved the deficit, but Scott Munro added a late fifth to underline the Magpies' dominance.

With no midweek action, Alresford have been focusing on their fitness over the last few days.

If Luffman has any criticism of his side, it is that they struggle to sustain their intensity for the whole 90 minutes.

"We've been doing a mini pre-season this week with bleep tests and everything.

"In the last couple of games, we've run out of legs a bit," he said.

"We've got a big month coming up, including a Southampton



Senior Cup quarter-final at Sholing and a North Hants Senior Cup semi-final against Fleet, and if we can get ourselves a bit fitter, I think we'll do even better.

"We started the season slowly, but we've really come to life since going out of the Vase.

"We've got goals coming from everywhere now with eight or nine players with five or more, so

that helps.

"And we haven't lost since Lukas McCartney came in to partner Rob Flooks at the back."

Key to Alresford's success is that, having found a winning formula, they are sticking to it.

"The squad's settled, really settled," said Luffman.

"A Portuguese lad, Joao Aldeano, has joined us. He's played

Second Division football in Portugal and knows one of our reserve lads who's also Portuguese. He's moved to Southampton with his job and plays central midfield or left-back.

"He was with us at Newport but he's come in at the wrong time really because the squad's so settled. But, saying that, we're got two games a week coming up."



# PINK NON LEAGUE FOOTBALL

## Howard quits Romsey to link up with Paul



Brian Howard

BRIAN Howard has left Sydenhams Wessex League football to link up with former Barnsley and Eastleigh teammate Paul Reid at National League South outfit Whitehawk.

Having hung up his professional boots to move into sports management, the vastly experienced ex-Swindon, Reading and Portsmouth midfielder has been playing his trade in the Wessex League ever since his short stay at Eastleigh ended in the summer of 2015.

Last season the 33-year-old

made 18 appearances for Sydenhams Premier outfit Alresford Town, playing alongside his brother John, and this season the pair have been turning out for Romsey Town in Sydenhams One.

Howard, who kicked off his career on the south coast with Saints, turned out for Barnsley between 2005 and 2009 and famously scored a 93rd-minute winner to defeat Liverpool 2-1 at Anfield in the FA Cup.

Current midfielder Sam Togwell was also with The Tykes back then as was ex-Spitfires skipper

Reid who was recently appointed joint manager of Whitehawk.

Howard made his Hawks debut as an 82nd-minute sub at Chelmsford City last weekend, joining Reid and former Eastleigh duo Dan Harding and Glen Southam on the pitch.

But it was too late to stave off a 1-0 defeat.

On Tuesday, Howard's corner set up fellow new signing Kevin Lisbie to score in the Sussex Senior Cup, but Whitehawk lost 3-1 at Crawley Town.

## 'Fresh approach'

CO-CHAIRMAN Scot MacFarlane has taken temporary charge of the New Milton Town manager's reins following the departure of Luke Phillips.

Phillips, together with assistants Justin Windle and Andy Richardson, last week parted company with the Sydenhams One outfit after just eight games.

Under Phillips's stewardship – which started with a 10-0 defeat by Weymouth Reserves in November – New Milton lost all eight games, conceding 38 goals and scoring just two.

Phillips was shown the door following Linnets' 4-1 defeat by Downton, a result which left them 16th, 12 points above second-bottom Pewsey Vale.

Former Cherries player and Saints assistant manager John Sainty was appointed director

# New Cherry Curt is an instant hit

By Wendy Gee



AFC TOTTON have swapped one AFC Bournemouth bright spark for another.

While Ben Cooper has returned to his parent club to continue his football education, the Stags have welcomed in another of the Cherries' exciting teenage prospects Curtis Young.

Young, who has already had a spell playing with Bashley in the Wessex League, has joined the Stags on work experience. And, judging by his debut at Taunton Town last week, the young forward could emulate fellow Bournemouth youngster Connor York who has impressed for the Stags as an attacking full-back.

Totton were 5-0 down to a Taunton side steaming towards their ninth straight Southern One South & West win when Young made his entrance at The Viridor Stadium.

And from the moment he stepped on the park, the Stags' threat level rose.

Looking lively on the right-hand side, he flashed one dangerous ball across the face of goal and then curled in a beauty of a shot only to see it hit the bar.

"If you'd come in for the last half-hour you'd have thought it was Totton leading 5-0," said Totton boss Louis Langdown.

"Curtis only played 30 minutes and he got man-of-the-match.

"He's hit the bar and should have had a goal and three assists but, unfortunately, the scoreline doesn't reflect that."

With wins in short supply for



Connor York

third-to-bottom Totton, it's a tough learning curve for the AFC Bournemouth young guns and on-loan Havant & Waterlooville trio Marley Ridge, Alfie Whittingham and Charlie Searle.

But Langdown said: "It's all part of the game. Connor York has come on in leaps and bounds. He's an 18-year-old who is getting better.

"Connor's performances have consistently improved and he has become a stand-out player for the side with his expert defending and energetic attacking play."

It wasn't so long ago that Baily Cargill was on loan at Totton from the Cherries and he went on to

gain England under-20 honours and be tipped by Eddie Howe as a future Bournemouth captain.

"Everyone thinks the world of Baily and hopefully we can play a part in these lads' development," said Langdown. "It's good for them to experience the ups and downs of football and to learn from making mistakes and losing games.

"We are extremely grateful to Carl Fletcher, AFC Bournemouth's under-18s manager, and his staff for placing their prospects in the hands of our management team.

"Ben Cooper has returned to Bournemouth at a crucial time

for scholars as they look to secure professional contracts. We all wish Ben the very best."

Off the pitch, Totton recently welcomed in a new sports therapist, Gary Ede.

He is supporting the work of the Stags' resident therapist Dave Penny who has stepped onto the committee as vice-chairman.

"Gary has recent experience serving Gosport Borough FC in the same capacity and has worked tirelessly with Dave and Josh Ward in clearing the treatment room and returning the likes of Nathaniel Sherborne, Ashley Jarvis and Jack Vallis to the squad," said Langdown.



of football at New Milton just days after Phillips had taken over and his position remains unaltered.

A club statement read: "It is with much regret that New Milton Town FC has to announce the end of Luke Phillips's tenure as manager of the club.

"Everyone at the club would like to thank Luke, Andy and Justin for their hard work and dedication while at the helm.

"It is always a very tough job to come in mid-season and, unfortunately, a bad run of results left the committee with a tough decision to make and we believe that, in the best interests of the football club, we must seek a fresh approach.

"Scot MacFarlane, club co-chairman, will take control and steady the ship in a caretaker manager role until the end of the season, at which point we will be advertising immediately the first-team manager's position."

MacFarlane's first game in charge ended in a 4-2 defeat at Folland Sports last Saturday.



PINK

## NON LEAGUE FOOTBALL

## Bob makes great start

FORMER Saints Academy player Bobby Scott wasted no time making an impact at Baffins Milton Rovers.

Scott, who previously played for Baffins boss Louis Bell at Blackfield & Langley, scored twice on his debut in a 5-0 Sydenhams One win at Fleet Spurs after going on as a substitute.

Still only 23, Scott needs to be pointed in the right direction again, having also had spells with Leyton Orient and Havant & Waterlooville.

Bell said: "If we can get him firing on all cylinders, a bit fitter and sharper, he will cause sides all sorts of problems."

"He is one of these youngsters who has lost his way massively."

Ryan Pennery also buried a brace for Baffins, taking him to 38 goals for



Bobby Scott

the season.

The victory moved Baffins up to second in the table behind league leaders Hamble Club.

## Ref role

THE Sydenhams Wessex League are seeking an assistant referees' secretary for the 2017/18 season.

The job will entail appointing match officials in the league.

Please contact, in the first instance, league secretary John Gorman at league@wessexleague@gmail.com or on 07780 496312.

● BEN McQuoid, brother of former AFC Bournemouth star Josh McQuoid, netted twice in Sway's 7-2 Hampshire Premier League Division One win at Michelmersh & Timsbury.

Dan Brennan also bagged a double, while Darren Ritchie, Jake Bockhart and Ryan Brading also scored.

## Ex-Stags loanee Billy is on the move again

FORMER AFC Totton loanee midfielder Billy Lowes is on the move again.

Lowes, then 18, had a spell with Totton dual-signed from Poole Town during Steve Riley's time as Stags manager.

From Poole, he moved to Dorset rivals Weymouth where he was voted the club's online player-of-the-month for August and October this term.

But Lowes had found starts hard to come by in recent weeks with Weymouth underachieving in the Southern Premier Division.

So he has now gone back out on loan to Totton's Southern One South & West rivals Wimborne Town.

Weymouth boss Jason Matthews is ada-

mant Lowes still has a big future at the Bob Lucas Stadium and will benefit from game time at Cuthbury.

Insisting the player "understands the situation", Matthews said: "Billy has been brilliant for me this season."

"Obviously I have gone with a little bit of experience with the current predicament we are in."

"Billy understands the situation and I just don't want him to be sat around at 19 years old, not playing."

"It's nothing permanent, it's just to get him game time for the next month."

"He has a big future at the club and Billy knows that. I want him to be playing."

Lowes made his Wimborne debut at Swindon Supermarine on Saturday, but came out on the losing side 1-0.

But despite losing skipper James Stokoe to injury at the break and seeing Dan Cann and Jack Lovell forced off in the second half, boss Matty Holmes was delighted with Wimborne's display.

"I spoke to their manager after the game and he felt they had got away with it and a draw was the minimum we'd deserved," he said.

"It was a great all-round effort and a huge improvement on the early-season game at Cuthbury (which Wimborne lost 5-1)."

## Poole could face shock relegation

By Neil Perrett

POOLE Town are facing the prospect of being relegated from National League South unless they can find £70,000 to get their ground up to scratch.

The Dolphins, who are on the cusp of the play-off places, must find the cash before the end of March or will be demoted back to the Southern League.

Poole, crowned Southern League champions last year, were given the green light to stage step two football at Tatnam on the proviso the venue met National League ground-grading criteria by March 31.

The project, which involves installing low-level terracing and upgrading the floodlights, will cost around £150,000 – with no facility for receiving a Football Foundation grant.

Local businessman Steve Griffiths, who owns Portman Stone in Christchurch, recently bought a shareholding in the club and has pledged £40,000.

And while Poole are currently in talks with other potential investors, no deals have been concluded and the clock continues to tick towards the deadline.

Vice-chairman Chris Reeves said: "The upgrade works are huge. They are going to cost in the region of £150,000 and we have £40,000 ring-fenced."

"It would be fantastic if we could get the remaining £110,000 by March 31, but we don't need the full amount by that date. We need at least £70,000 by then though."

"We are slowly getting good



Poole fans at The Tatnam ground

terms agreed with some very supportive contractors and everything has been agreed with the school (Oakdale Junior), who are our landlords.

"We are also in talks with two or three influential people who are showing an interest in helping us."

"However, the reality is that we haven't yet got anything signed with regards to the rest of the money."

"If all the works aren't carried out by March 31, we will be relegated back to the Southern League and that does not bear thinking about."

"We have thrown ourselves

heart and soul into this project. We pulled off a £250,000 project to stay in the Southern League three years ago but did that with the benefit of a 50 per cent grant from the Football Foundation."

"We are not eligible for any grant because we only have eight years left on our lease and there has to be a minimum of 10 before they will entertain a grant."

"We feel there is the opportunity for a local company or individual to be paraded as the saviour of Poole Town Football Club."

"We are loving every minute of being in National South and can't get our heads around being rel-

egated."

Founded in 1890, Poole have been blighted by ground problems ever since being kicked out of Poole Stadium – their home for 61 years – in 1994.

They have faced a constant battle to find a new stadium despite putting the town on the map by climbing from the Hampshire League to the National League in the space of 13 years.

Poole moved to its current base on a school playing field at Tatnam in 2005 after ground-sharing with Hamworthy United and Holt United following their departure from Wimborne Road.



# PINK NON LEAGUE FOOTBALL

## Ex-Stag Darnton back in football

By Wendy Gee



ANDY Darnton is back in football as right-hand man to Danny Robinson at Thatcham Town.

Darnton had been out of a job since mid-November when his stint as caretaker manager at AFC Totton came to an end following the appointment of Louis Langdown as new first-team boss, writes Wendy Gee.

The former defender – who played over 700 games at Southern and Ryman League level and has ten years' management and coaching experience behind him with the likes of Bashley, Waterloo, Worthing, Andover and Newport IoW – admits he is "still disappointed" at the way his Totton stay ended and didn't want to jump straight into another job.

### Flattering

But after six weeks "assessing and reflecting" on what happened, he is looking forward to a new challenge with former Wessex and Southern League club Thatcham who are currently fourth in the Hellenic Premier Division and gunning for promotion.

He teams up with Robinson, another well-known face in this neck of the woods from his time co-managing Alresford Town and Winchester City alongside Tim Cole.

Darnton said: "I had a few offers – a couple from the Wessex League and a couple from the Southern League – which was flattering, but I've decided to go and work



Andy Darnton

with Danny at Thatcham.

"Danny's a nice bloke. I've known him a long time and I trust

him and I just think Thatcham are quite ambitious.

"They're looking to get out of

the Hellenic into the Southern League, they've got plans for a new stand and hopefully there's a 3G pitch coming where their full-sized training pitch is, which would bring in revenue.

"It's a fresh challenge for me in an area I haven't worked in before. There are lots of new clubs to go to which keeps it interesting.

"I live in Romsey, so I can do Thatcham in about 45 minutes.

"Danny's a good manager who manages to attract players in. He said he'd always wanted to work with me, but the situation hadn't been right before for whatever reason.

"The Thatcham lads have taken to me and made me feel very welcome."

Darnton, appointed assistant manager of Totton last summer, took caretaker charge when Steve Hollick departed in late September.

### 'Babysitter'

He applied to take the job on permanently but didn't make the shortlist of three.

Darnton said the Stags had indicated they would keep him on in some capacity, whoever the new manager turned out to be. And, while he attached no blame to Langdown for letting him go, he felt "a bit used" as a "babysitter".

"I'm still a bit disappointed with the way Totton ended, but I assessed and reflected on it and, without rushing straight back in, I feel Thatcham is the right club for me," he said.

Darnton celebrated his first game as Robinson's right-hand man with a 3-1 victory at Gloucester-based Longlevens last Saturday with Shane Cooper-Clark scoring a hat-trick.

## 'Appeal process is so hard'

POOLE Town boss Tom Killick called for a "proper and fair mechanism" for National South clubs to appeal dismissals after Lewis Tallack was red-carded in last Saturday's 0-0 stalemate at Eastbourne Borough.

The defender – recently on loan at Winchester City – was dismissed by referee Aji Ajibola late on at Priory Lane, minutes after the hosts' Craig Stone had been ordered off following a robust challenge on substitute Jack Dickson.

Tallack, a late replacement for calf injury victim Shaun Cooper, faces a three-game ban with no video evidence apparently available to back up the Dolphins' case.

Speaking after his 700th game in charge of



Lewis Tallack

the Tatnam side, Killick said: "Lewis Tallack did very well and was a bit unfortunate to be sent off.

"From our perspective and the player's perspective, to miss three games when you shouldn't really do so is quite harsh.

"That's the disappointment when you get a sending-off you feel is the wrong decision.

"They make the appeal process so difficult for sides at our level. You have to have conclusive video evidence which is pretty much always a stumbling block.

"It pretty much means these decisions are 'unappealable', which is wrong.

"People make mistakes and referees are no different and there has to be a proper and fair mechanism for reviewing it.

"We haven't really got that at our level of football, which is a shame."

## Former Cherries trainee Dan leaves Terras



Dan Thomas

GOALKEEPER Dan Thomas has left Weymouth by mutual consent.

A former AFC Bournemouth youngster, Thomas spent time on loan with AFC Totton and went to play for Havant & Waterlooville, Poole Town and Aldershot Town before linking up with the Terras.

He was brought in by Weymouth during pre-season to provide competition for player-manager Jason Matthews, but slipped out of contention once Truro City loanee Tom McHale cemented himself as club No1.

"Dan Thomas has been released by mutual consent," Matthews confirmed.

"Obviously, from Dan's point of view, it didn't work out."

"I'd like to thank Dan for his efforts. I just think Tom McHale has come in and had a very positive impact."

● ENTRIES are open for the Hampshire FA's Groundsman of the Year award.

Nominations can be made to Sacha Nicholas (Sacha.Nicholas@

Hampshire FA.com), the Hampshire FA's Facilities and Investment manager, by January 31.

The competition is open to clubs from Step Seven (the Hampshire Premier League) and below.

The top three clubs receive line marking paint with the top club also receiving a line marker from sponsors Fleet Line Markers and put forward for a national award from the FA.

Winners will also be invited to the Hampshire FA's annual Grassroots Football Awards at St Mary's on June 3.



## PINK

## NON LEAGUE FOOTBALL

## Non league fixtures

Monday, January 16

EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE  
Premier Division: Hitchin v Dorchester.  
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE  
SWL Cup, quarter-final: Team Solent v Tadley Calvea.

Tuesday, January 16

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH  
Dartford v Weston-super-Mare.  
EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE  
Premier Division: Chesham v Stratford,  
Cinderford v Cambridge City, Kings Lynn v  
Biggleswade, Kings Langley v Chippenham,  
Leamington v Kettering, Weymouth v Banbury.  
Division One South & West: Bishops Cleeve  
v North Lee, Taunton v Larkhall, Wimborne v  
Paulton Rovers.

Challenge Cup, third round: Shortwood v  
Salisbury.

HAMPSHIRE FA SENIOR CUP  
Quarter-finals: Basingstoke Town v  
AFC Stoneham, Gosport Borough v AFC  
Bournemouth Development Squad, Hartley  
Wintney v AFC Totton, Sholing v Winchester  
City.

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE  
Premier Division: Hamworthy Utd v  
Bemerton HH.  
SOUTHAMPTON SENIOR CUP  
Quarter-final: Brockenhurst v Hamble Club  
(7.30).

NORTH HANTS SENIOR CUP  
Semi-final: Fleet Town v Alresford Town.

Wednesday, January 18

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE  
Premier Division: Whitchurch v Andover  
Town.

ANDOVER OPEN CUP  
Overton v Winchester Castle.

Friday, January 20

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE  
Lincoln v Dover (BT Sport, 7.45)

Saturday, January 21

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE  
Boreham Wood v Solihull Moors, Chester v  
Wrexham, Dagenham & Redbridge v Bromley,  
Forest Green v Braintree, Gateshead v  
Aldershot, Macclesfield v Guiseley, Maidstone  
v Torquay, Southport v North Ferriby, Sutton v  
Eastleigh, Woking v Tranmere, York v Barrow.  
VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH  
Bishops Stortford v Concord, East Thurrock  
v Margate, Ebbsfleet v Chelmsford, Hampton  
& Richmond v Gosport Borough, Hungeford  
v Truro, Maidenhead v Eastbourne Borough,  
Oxford City v Bath City, Poole v St Albans,  
Welling v Dartford, Weston-super-Mare v  
Wealdstone, Whitehawk v Hemel Hempstead.  
EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE  
Premier Division: Banbury v St Neots,  
Basingstoke v Dunstable, Chesham v Frome,  
Cinderford v Leamington, Dorchester v Hayes  
& Yeading, Hitchin v Cirencester, Kettering  
v Merthyr Town, Kings Lynn v Weymouth,  
Redditch v Biggleswade, Slough v Chippenham,  
Sr Ives v Kings Langley.

Division One South & West: Barnstaple v  
Wimborne, Bishops Cleeve v Larkhall, Didcot  
v Shortwood, Evesham v North Leigh, Paulton  
Rovers v AFC Totton, Salisbury v Bridgwater,  
Slimbridge v Tiverton, Swindon Supermarine v  
Mangotsfield, Taunton v Wantage, Winchester  
City v Bideford, Yate v Hereford.

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE  
Premier Division: AFC Portchester v  
Whitchurch, Alresford v Portland Utd, Bashley  
v Fareham Town, Bemerton HH v Verwood,  
Bournemouth Poppies v Team Solent, Fawley  
AFC v Cowes Sports, Hamworthy Utd v Andover  
Town, Horndean v Brockenhurst, Lymington  
Town v Amesbury, Newport IoW v Blackfield &  
Langley, Sholing v Moneyfields.

Division One: Andover NS v Baffins MR,  
Fleet Spurs v Downton, Folland Sports v East  
Cowes Vics, Hamble Club v Pewsey Vale,  
Laverstock & Ford v Alton, Ringwood v AFC  
Stoneham, Romsey v New Milton, Shaftesbury  
v Christchurch, Totton & Eling v Tadley Calvea,  
Weymouth Res v US Portsmouth.

PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE PREMIER  
LEAGUE  
Premier Division: Andover Lions v  
Paulsgrove, Clanfield v Colden Common,  
Hayling Utd v Liss, Hedge End Rangers v  
Winchester Castle, Infinity v Fleetlands, Locks  
Heath v Liphook, Overton v Bush Hill, OK  
Southampton v Stockbridge.

Division One: Four Marks v Lyndhurst,  
Michelmersham & Timsbury v Netley Central, Sway  
v Headley Utd, Ugham v AFC Petersfield.  
Combination Division: Bush Hill v Four  
Marks, Fleetlands v Michelmersham & Timsbury,  
Headley v Hayling, Liphook v Hedge End  
Rangers, Paulsgrove v Clanfield, Winchester  
Castle v Overton.

## Stiles replaces Stone as Fareham manager



Steve Stone

PETE Stiles is the new man at the helm of Sydenhams Premier strugglers Fareham Town.

After spending 16 years in various roles with Fareham's Wessex neighbours AFC Portchester, Stiles quickly took over the Cams Alders hot seat following Steve Stone's sacking last weekend.

Having led Portchester's reserves to the 2014/15 Wyvern League title, Fareham's new boss is up for the challenge of trying to steering Town away from the Wessex top-flight drop zone.

He is being assisted by Rudi Hall, an ex-Chelsea youth player and expe-

rienced non-League campaigner, who holds the record number of appearances for Enfield Town.

An FTFC statement confirmed: "Pete has been involved with local football for a number of years, bringing a wealth of experience working with local players.

"Pete is delighted to be offered this opportunity to manage Fareham Town FC and is looking forward to the challenge of improving the club's current position."

Stone's sacking is believed to have followed his refusal to ditch his assistant Karl Watson who had made his

frustrations known after Saturday's defeat, upsetting vice-chairman Dave Munday.

"I was told to sack him or resign, but I wasn't prepared to do either," said Stone. "Then the vice-chairman came back and told me we had both been sacked."

Frowns turned to smiles on Tuesday as new boss Stiles made an instant impact, leading the Creeksiders to a morale-boosting 3-1 win at Amesbury Town.

The win - Fareham's sixth in the league this season - lifted them four places into 18th.

## Hamble booster

By Wendy Glee



DEADLY Declan McGregor has done Hamble Club a massive favour in the Sydenhams One title chase.

The veteran former Salisbury City striker scored one of the fastest goals in Wessex history as Downton defeated Hamble's rivals Laverstock & Ford 1-0 in a hard-fought Wiltshire derby at Wick Lane on Tuesday.

McGregor took just 30 seconds to find the net, pouncing on a through ball and deftly lobbing stranded Lavvy 'keeper Lee Newman-Judd.

The hosts created further first-half chances to double their lead but were unable to convert them.

Lavvy grew into the game after the resumption and went close through James Clifton and Archie Lovegrove.

Their best chance arrived from a corner which was met by Olly Hoare but saved brilliantly by Robins' keeper Charlie Aldridge.

That was as good as it got for third-placed Lavvy who blew their chance of returning to the top-two.

For Downton, it was a third win on the bounce, moving them up to tenth spot.

Robins boss Rae Hughes said: "I'm really pleased with the lads. We had a game plan and they stuck to it and it worked.

"We had the energy, fight and desire back, which is really pleasing."

In the opposite dugout, Lavvy co-managers Robbie Lakeman and Liam McConnell watched another three points evaporate following a 4-1 home defeat by Shaftesbury.

"Downton had a clear game plan which Rae had set them up to achieve and, fair play to them, they executed it and it worked," the pair said.



Downton's Declan McGregor (in red).

"We always felt that whoever struck the first blow would be difficult to beat and, with them scoring after 30 seconds, that really took the wind out of us.

"Any derby defeat is tough to take and we don't seem to be getting things our own way in games recently, so we are finding it tough.

"But we have a great bunch of lads who are desperate to do well.

We will work together and get through this sticky patch."

Laverstock's latest loss left them four points off leaders Hamble Club in third, having played two games more.

The merry Monks had hammered out their title intentions with an 8-2 demolition job at Tadley Calvea last weekend.

Dougie Rowe and Mike Byrne bagged a hat-trick apiece with

Murray Holmes and Danny Cox also scoring.

Tadley could only muster goals by Brett Denham and Scott Kinge in response, much to the disappointment of their manager Danny Dolan.

He tweeted: "Worst day of my football career but got to give credit to @HambleClubFC and wish them all the best in the Wessex Prem."



# PINK NON LEAGUE FOOTBALL

## Mariners next up in Vase for Solent

By Wendy Gee



AFTER a week of high drama in the north of England, it is South Shields that stand between Team Solent and a place in the quarter-finals of the FA Vase.

The Mariners knocked out holders Morpeth Town 4-0 on Wednesday following the late abandonment of last Saturday's heavyweight Northern League Division One bout.

Morpeth had been 4-2 up at Mariners Park with hosts South Shields reduced to ten men following the dismissal of former Sunderland and Middlesbrough star Julio Arca.

But with victory seemingly sewn up for the visitors, the floodlights failed with 82 minutes on the clock and, despite Morpeth protests, FA rules dictated that the match had to go to a replay.

There was claim and counter-claim from both clubs as things threatened to get ugly and, with South Shields unable to fix their generator in time, the saga took another twist when the replay was switched to Morpeth's Craik Park.

But losing home advantage didn't faze South Shields as goals by Gavin Cogdon (2) and David Foley (2) booked them a last-16 date at Team Solent's Test Park HQ on Saturday, January 28.

South Shields boss Lee Picton said: "There will be a lot made about what went on before tonight, but I just want to talk about the game and, to a man, we were different class."

"Every single person stepped up to the plate and we all together showed what we're capable of. I'm probably as proud as I've been all season."

The same could be said of Team Solent boss James Taylor in the wake of the Students' 3-0 win over Croydon last weekend.

Leading by a Tobi Adekunle goal at half-time, the Southampton Solent University side earned top marks after the break as further goals from Ellis White and skipper Jesse Waller-Lassen sent them cruising into the fifth round.

"I'm really pleased with the second half, we were superb," said Taylor.

"It's probably as a good performance as we've had this season."

"Croydon were a good side first half, but they ran out of steam a bit."



Ellis White is mobbed after scoring Solent's second goal against Croydon.



Jesse Waller-Lassen, above, scores for Solent and, right, the same player gets away from a Croydon opponent.



"It's the way we play. We try and wear teams down, get into the second half in contention and then drive on from there. It certainly worked today. It was a special second-half performance."

"We could have had a couple more goals, but that'd be a bit greedy in the last 32 of a national competition," he smiled. "I'll settle for three!"

Having trawled through the highlights of the original South Shields game on YouTube on

Monday, Taylor had a sneaking suspicion that Picton's team would triumph in the replay.

"It was all South Shields until they had a player sent off," he said. "And they're doing better than Morpeth in the league."

"Obviously it's going to be really hard from now on because there are 16 great teams left who all think they can win the Vase but, as long as the pitch is good – which ours will be – we'll give it a good go."

"If we play like we did in the second half last week, we'll take some stopping. It's a great draw for us, being at home. If we've got the intention of going all the way to Wembley, we've got to beat the best."

FA VASE Fifth round: Cleethorpes Town v Atherton Collieries, Southall v Exmouth Town, Bromsgrove Sporting v Bristol Manor Farm or Melksham, Crowborough v Coleshill, Hinckley AFC v Buckland Athletic, Newport Pagnell v Sunderland RCA, Ely City v Sporting Khalsa, Team Solent v South Shields.

### Farewell to Darren

THE local football community gave a fitting send-off to one of their own on Tuesday.

The Wessex Vale Crematorium in West End was packed out as players, managers, coaches and club officials from all over the Wessex area turned out in force to pay their respects to Sholing's popular head coach Darren Burdle.

Boatmen's secretary Greg Dickson said: "Our whole squad, including 24 first-team players and some fringe players, was there and what really touched me was that every single club Darren had ever been involved with had representation there."

"There were so many managers and ex-players who came to pay their respects."

Darren's sudden death



Darren Burdle

last month, aged just 50, shocked and saddened clubs all round the area.

'Birdman', as he was affectionately known, was a much-loved face on the Hampshire and Wessex scene having played and/or coached at Esso Fawley, Brockenhurst, Lympington Town, Blackfield & Langley, BAT, Brendon, Folland Sports, Hamble Club, Winchester City and Sholing.

The proceeds from today's Southampton Senior Cup quarter-final between Sholing's development squad and Hamble Club reserves will go towards Darren's children Dylan and Brooke's trust fund (<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/dylanandbrookesfuture>) along with what was raised in a bucket collection.

"Follands did the same thing last weekend and paid the money into the trust fund," said Dickson.



## £500m plan

Chelsea have been granted planning permission for a £500million redevelopment of Stamford Bridge.

Here, Jim van Wijk answers some of the questions surrounding the project.

### What has happened?

Hammersmith and Fulham Council's planning committee voted unanimously to approve the proposal for a 60,000-seat stadium at a meeting on Wednesday night, which is a significant step towards the club moving ahead with redevelopment of their home since 1905.

### Are the bulldozers about to pull down The Shed End?

No. Chelsea issued a statement following the council's decision confirming the "decision does not mean that work can begin on site". There are still plenty more negotiations ahead. Full planning consent is needed, which is aimed to be achieved by working closely with



Computer generated image of Chelsea's redevelopment.

council officers. The detailed design of the stadium has to be finalised, along with logistical plans for the site and the surrounding area. The club are also going to set up a residents' forum for those people living near-by who may be affected by the planned work. London Mayor Sadiq Khan will also need to approve the project.

### Who will pay for it all?

It will be costly. Chelsea had previously looked at sites including Battersea Power Station for a new stadium, but concluded their ideal venue could be created at Stamford Bridge. The build, though, is set to be complex and involve excavation, with the plan to lower the arena into the ground to achieve the capacity on a 12-acre site.

The proximity of underground and overground railway lines are one of the biggest challenges for such a huge project in an area of west London which offers little wiggle room.

*Continued on facing page*

# PINK

## NON LEAGUE FOOTBALL

# Mad Dog's doing

By Simon  
Walter



AS a keen gardener, Martin Allen is used to doing plenty of pruning at this time of year.

It is all about preparation for horticulturalists like Mad Dog during the winter months, when they hope their many hours of preparation reap dividends in the form of green shoots in the spring and a flowering in the summer.

So it is with Eastleigh, Allen's latest project.

Mad Dog, who worked as a £10-an-hour gardener in leafy Buckinghamshire before embarking on his coaching career, compared his favourite pastime to football management when discussing the start of his successful period at Brentford 12 years ago.

"It was necessary to cut everything right back, dig some plants out which were past their best and to bring in some sunshine and fresh growth, to re-energise the garden and bring some colour to the team," he explained in his national newspaper column.

"Some young players stepped up, some new players were brought in and we trained hard. We trimmed and tidied, fed and watered and the sunshine came."

Allen led Brentford to their Great Escape after taking over at Griffin Park with the club second-from-bottom of what is now League One in March 2004.

Brentford won their last game to ensure they stayed up by taking 18 points from Allen's first nine games in charge, before flourishing under his stewardship as they reached the League One play-offs in successive seasons.

There are similarities with Eastleigh as Allen lays the groundwork for a second half of the season that requires around two points a game if the Spitfires are to make the play-offs.

He has already planted several seeds in the form of seven new signings; Graham Stack, Ben Strevens, Sam Toggwell, Gavin Hoyte, Darius Henderson and loanees Hakeem Odoffin (Wolves) and Tyler Garratt (Doncaster).

Having already lost Andy Drury central defender Reda Johnson and midfielder Jason Taylor to injury, Allen was unfortunate when Hoyte limped off with a hamstring strain just a few minutes into his second appearance for the club at Brentford last week.

But Strevens and Toggwell have added experience to midfield that was much-needed after Andy Drury returned to Ebbsfleet in Allen's first week in charge. It remains to be seen if Allen signs a replacement for Joe Partington,



Eastleigh's Ayo Obileye, right, scores at Brentford last weekend. Main picture: James Constable battles away with Ryan Woods. Below: Ex-Saint Harlee Dean clears for Brentford.



who moved to Bristol Rovers for a record fee (undisclosed) yesterday.

Henderson, the much-travelled former Watford and Sheffield United centre forward, provides knowhow in attack alongside Mikael Mandron and Scott Wilson.

Odoffin, 18, and Garratt, 20, give energy as well as cover to the full-back positions, while player-

coach Stack is a goalkeeper with more than 250 appearances behind him (it would be many more but he spent six years at Arsenal without playing in the Premier League).

With Eastleigh enjoying a rare weekend off, Allen is currently working hard on a spot of dead-heading.

"We can only have five subs so

there's no point in having 24 players," he pointed out after Tuesday's 1-1 draw at home to Forest Green Rovers - and before the club sold the versatile Partington.

Two of the loanees Allen inherited, forward Alefe Santos and goalkeeper Ryan Huddart, have returned to their respective parent clubs - Derby County and Arsenal - and defenders David Pipe



# PINK NON LEAGUE FOOTBALL

## a spot of pruning



Eastleigh boss Martin Allen with a Brentford fan before last weekend's FA Cup tie.

Eastleigh's Sam Togwell, left, with John Egan of Brentford.

and Connor Essam have been loaned to Newport County and National League rivals Dover Athletic respectively.

Upon taking over from Ronnie Moore little more than six weeks ago, Allen talked about going up as champions.

That was unrealistic then, even more so now. But with their cup interest over for another season,

the Spitfires can now focus on playing like champions in their final 19 games.

With the money that he has invested, a play-off place is the very least that owner Stewart Donald deserves.

Currently 12th with 40 points from 27 games, Eastleigh need another 40 points to have a realistic chance of making the top five.

Since losing Allen's first league game as Eastleigh boss, 4-3 at Southport, the Spitfires have taken five points from three games.

Not a bad return against two sides in the top half of the table in Boreham Wood (2-2 and 1-0) and third-placed Forest Green.

But Allen knows more than anyone that what is needed now is a lengthy unbeaten run.

"There are 57 points to play," he said after the draw against Forest Green.

"But I want wins and we're working towards that.

"We were unlucky not to win at home against Boreham Wood but we're getting harder to beat and are looking competitive.

"Over time we'll have more flair and creativity. But when you're not on a good run you have to dig in."

Next up for Eastleigh is a tough trip to Sutton United, four days after Paul Doswell's side takes on AFC Wimbledon in an FA Cup third-round replay.

The Spitfires will hope to capitalise on the tiring effect of Sutton's cup commitments and the possible distraction of a fourth-round tie at home to Leeds the following weekend.

After that come three key games that will help to define how the second half of the season goes.

Macclesfield, Woking and Braintree all visit the Silverlake Stadium in the space of 11 days.

If Eastleigh win all of those games, as they should against teams currently outside the top seven, and follow up by winning at struggling Guiseley, it will generate the sort of momentum that will be needed going into high-flying Tranmere's visit next month.

Forest Green are the only top five club Eastleigh do not play between now and the end of the season.

And the Spitfires go to fifth-placed Dover the week after Tranmere's visit.

So we will have a good idea of how the second half of the season is going to go after the Hampshire derby against Aldershot at the Silverlake on Tuesday, February 28.

Should Eastleigh be there or thereabouts at Easter, they will have an excellent chance as their run-in is favourable.

Two of their last three games are at home and Bromley, Solihull Moors and Wrexham are likely to have little to play for given their season so far.

The hard bit for Allen is the preparation but the signs are encouraging as he tries to ensure Eastleigh's garden is as rosy come the spring as the flowers he donated to his parish church near Henley last year.

"Having 1,500 supporters behind the goal at Brentford was 500 more than this club's ever had travelling before and it whets my appetite for the future," he said.

"That fan base will build, no doubt about it.

"This is only the beginning. I will put together a team, with the chairman's help of course, that's going to challenge and make these people proud."

## £500m plan

from facing page

The estimated £500million cost of the work would be funded by Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich.

**Why do Chelsea need to a bigger stadium anyway?**

Stamford Bridge's capacity is 41,663, making it the seventh biggest in the Premier League. Nevertheless, it falls well short of Manchester United's 76,000-seater Old Trafford, while Arsenal, Manchester City, Sunderland, Liverpool and now London rivals West Ham all boast bigger grounds.

Another capital club, Tottenham, will also soon have a brand new 61,000-capacity home following the Northumberland Development Project, which will also allow for other events such as NFL matches and concerts.

It is not just about getting more people into watch the games, it is also about increasing overall match-day revenue - something which Arsenal have benefited from since leaving Highbury and moving into the Emirates Stadium.



Computer generated image of Chelsea's redevelopment.

**Where could the Blues play while some of the building work is taking place?**

It has yet to be confirmed for how long Chelsea would need to play 'home' matches at a different venue while redevelopment is completed.

Twickenham, which has a capacity of 82,000, has been mooted as a contender for a part-time base and would see football played there for the first time, with the Rugby Football Union having already agreed to the staging of NFL matches.

Wembley is also an option, but Spurs are already set to occupy the national stadium for at least the 2017-18 campaign as development on their own new ground is completed.

Then again, there is always Craven Cottage....



## Skipper Jim

Both captains for the 2018 Ryder Cup are now known with the United States opting to pit Jim Furyk against Europe's Thomas Bjorn.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at some talking points following Furyk's appointment.

### WHY IS FURYK THE RIGHT MAN?

Fred Couples has shown his leadership credentials by overseeing three Presidents Cup successes but Furyk was the preferred choice for 2018 because of his vast Ryder Cup experience and because he offers continuity. He played in the event nine times in succession from 1997 and was a vice-captain last year. As a player still competitive on the PGA Tour, he should also know his likely team members well, something which was identified as crucial after the nadir of the 2014 defeat under Tom Watson at Gleneagles.

### WILL EUROPE FEAR HIM?



Jim Furyk

Furyk is a highly respected figure in the golfing world but his Ryder Cup record is not likely to have the Europeans overly worried. In nine playing appearances he has won the event just twice and has a disappointing individual return of just 12 points from 34 matches played. As a player renowned for his accuracy this is surprising. His late capitulation in his singles against Sergio Garcia at Medinah in 2012 may also raise questions over his nerve.

### DOES EXPERIENCE COUNT?

Obviously it is highly beneficial that Furyk knows the event so well, but his experience as a vice-captain in 2016 may be just as important. After years of under-achievement, they finally found a winning formula at Hazeltine.

*Continued on facing page*

PINK

# Where has the FA

By Simon Carter



WHERE has all the FA Cup magic gone, and can it ever return?

Those were the questions being asked after last weekend's third round ties saw Premier League managers field weakened sides and supporters turn their back on the most famous club knockout competition of them all.

League 2 outfit Plymouth held Liverpool to a draw at Anfield after Reds boss Jurgen Klopp named the youngest-ever starting XI in the club's history.

Bournemouth boss Eddie Howe changed his entire team as they slumped to a 3-0 defeat at League 1 club Millwall.

As a result, the Cherries became the first ever Premier League club to lose by a three-goal margin in the FA Cup to a team from outside the top two divisions.

Elsewhere, the Manchester clubs made nine alterations apiece, although City thrashed West Ham 5-0 and United eased passed Reading with a 4-0 success.

Saints boss Claude Puel, no stranger to rotation this season, made eight changes for the 2-2 draw at Norwich.

Only Maya Yoshida, James Ward-Prowse and Dusan Tadic remained from the side that had started the previous Monday's league game at Goodison Park.

Saints' visit to Carrow Road 'attracted' a crowd of only 12,479 - a whopping 52 per cent down on the Canaries' Championship average of 26,168.

The story crowd-wise was worse at other ties.

Hull, averaging 20,441 in the Premier League, could only pull in 6,608 for their third round tie with top flight rivals Swansea - a 68 per cent decrease in support.

Brighton, averaging 27,307 in the Championship, could only muster 11,091 for their home tie - a 59 per cent reduction. In fairness to the Seagulls, though, they were hosting lower division opposition in League 1 Port Vale - hardly a glamour tie, that.

Sunderland's home tie with Premier League rivals Burnley attracted 17,632 - a 58 per cent drop on their league average of 41,799.

Of the 25 teams at home last Saturday, only seven were watched by a bigger crowd than their current league average.

Best of all was National League's Sutton United, whose league average this term is 1,498.

For their attractive derby with League 1 AFC Wimbledon, they pulled in 5,200 - a 247 per cent increase on their average.

Sutton held their two divisions



Eastleigh fans outside Brentford's Griffin Park last weekend.



Millwall's Lee Gregory goes for goal during his side's FA Cup win over below-strength Cherries at The New Den last weekend.

higher visitors to a goalless draw, and manager Paul Doswell - the former Eastleigh boss - hit the national headlines with his comments afterwards.

Doswell savaged the BBC for not picking their derby as one of their live televised third round games.

You could see his point. It was probably the most roman-

tic of all the third round ties, given Sutton's famous giant-killing history in knocking out first division Coventry in 1989, and the fact that they were facing local rivals Wimbledon.

But that was all ignored by the television planners.

As were the other four non league teams in the third round draw - Eastleigh, Lincoln, Barrow

and Stourbridge.

Instead, the BBC showed West Ham's clash with Manchester City and Tottenham's game against Aston Villa, while BT Sport showed Manchester United v Reading, Preston v Arsenal, Liverpool v Plymouth, and Cambridge v Leeds.

At least the last three ties picked by BT filled the criteria of higher



PINK

# Cup magic gone?



Eastleigh fans, above and below, enjoying themselves at Brentford.



division 'Goliath' facing lower tier 'David'.

Doswell fumed: "We were massively disappointed this game was not on TV. I hope they choose us for the replay.

"The BBC are a taxpayer-funded organisation. They should not be after viewing figures.

"I don't blame BT as much, because they are a commercial

organisation, but where is the romance of the FA Cup?

"When I was doing my speech beforehand, Man United were already 2-0 up. The previous night City beat West Ham 5-0. We see that every week.

"We could have sold 15-20,000 tickets for this game.

"We were devastated because that TV money could have built

the changing rooms for the kids.

"If the TV companies get it right this time and we are the live replay game, it is worth £75,000 to us. That's almost 25 per cent of my whole budget.

"Plus another £30-40,000 gate receipts, its £115,000 if they put us on the telly and that makes this club.

"We have not got a rich benefac-

tor.

"I hope the TV companies believe we can pull off a shock because we believe we can."

Wimbledon manager Neal Ardley agreed with Doswell.

"When the BBC took back the FA Cup the remit was to put the romance back into it," he said.

"In a world where money is talking and a lot of people are only watching Premier League football, the FA Cup gives us a chance to just look.

"I thought a non-League team, on a 3G pitch, in a local derby against a team that played its first ever game against them, it has got everything. The Coventry game, the Wimbledon history - everything. To end up with Arsenal, Man Utd, Spurs, Man City on, is disappointing.

"The answer is money talks, because they thought the viewing figures would be higher. They are missing the point. It hurts the competition. There was a cup upset on the table here."

To be fair to the Beeb, they have chosen the underdogs before and will no doubt do it again.

Two seasons ago, their live first round game on a Friday night showed Warrington beating four leagues higher Exeter City.

In 2015/16, they struck lucky again, with Salford City dumping out Notts County (a top flight team as recently as 1992).

This season, they racked up at the Silverlake Stadium to see Eastleigh draw with two divisions higher Swindon Town.

I would like to think if any of the five non leaguers in the third round this term had been handed a 'better' draw - ie, one against a higher profile opponent - then they would have been a shoe-in for live coverage.

As it was, Eastleigh and Lincoln were drawn away to mid-table Championship teams - though in the latter's case one that as recently as 1981 won the UEFA Cup (Ipswich Town) - while Barrow were home to Rochdale and Stourbridge were sent to Wycombe.

With the exception of possibly Lincoln's game - pitting a former Football League club now seemingly on the rise again after a spell in the non league doldrums against the 1978 FA Cup winners - the other three ties were not worthy of showing live.

Sutton v AFC Wimbledon possibly was, but only at the expense of one of the two live all-Premier League ties or Manchester United's home game with Reading.

Let's be honest, though. Television companies have shown United's last 55 FA Cup ties live, and there is a reason for that incredible figure - they attract the highest viewing figures.

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## Skipper Jim

from facing page

Furyk saw all this firsthand as a member of the backroom team and should know what to build on.

### HOW MUCH INFLUENCE WILL HE HAVE?

This should be significant, although some may say it is open to conjecture. Much was made of the 'task force' which oversaw a revamp of the American set-up before and during the 2016 event and the role of Phil Mickelson, the most vociferous critic of Watson's doomed leadership in 2014, in that was pivotal. To many it seemed Mickelson was really the power behind the throne at Hazeltine, but that may have been overstating it. Furyk will certainly have a lot to consider in terms of team preparation and pairings. Some will say he lacks charisma but he may make up for that in diligence.

### WHAT DOES HE



Jim Furyk

### HAVE TO PROVE?

As one of the world's leading players over a number of years, the 2003 US Open winner has nothing to prove in terms of his golfing credentials. He does, however, need to show he has the leadership qualities to mould a winning team. His playing record in the pairs events suggests he struggled to find the right chemistry with various partners. It may be legitimate to wonder whether he can find it in the pairings he devises.

### COULD HE PLAY?

As the world number 37, Furyk is not over hill as a player. Modesty would surely prevent him from selecting himself but it is not inconceivable that he could qualify as of right with a good run of form. He is certainly still good enough and almost got the nod as one of Love's wildcards last year. It may not be realistic, however.



## 'Can we not knock it?'

England manager Graham Taylor has died at the age of 72.

His stint in charge of the national team was the subject of the 1994 documentary 'An Impossible Job', which followed England's failed bid to reach the 1994 World Cup.

Some of Taylor's touchline quotes in the documentary have gone down in football folklore. Here are a selection of the best.

"You're talking about another human being, so just watch your language, all right" - **castigating a fan who was abusing John Barnes during the Wembley clash with San Marino in February 1993.**

"Carlton - what was he doing in the box? Didn't we tell him to hold the middle of the pitch" - **celebrating Carlton Palmer's goal against San Marino.**

"Go Les, hit Les, hit Les over the top...Les demand it, tell them Les...perhaps they can't see you" - **instructions**



Graham Taylor.

for Les Ferdinand during the loss in Norway in June 1993.

"Do I not like that" - **as England losing possession led to a goal for Poland in a qualifier the previous month. It became his defining phrase.**

"Can we not knock it?" - **expressing his frustration during that Poland game.**

"Listen Rob, I cannot have faces like yours around about me, I can't. Rob, I'll tell you this now, if you were one of my players with a face like that I'd kick you out, you would never have a chance" - **telling journalist Rob Shepherd to cheer up ahead of crunch qualifier away to Holland in October 1993.**

"You see at the end of the day I get the sack now" - **to the fourth official as England lose 2-0 to Holland.**  
 "I was just saying to your colleague, the referee's got me the sack, thank him ever so much for that won't you" - **adding his thanks to the linesman in Rotterdam.**

# PINK

# Sowing the seeds of

By Simon Carter



From page 19

Unless Sutton were drawn against one of the Premier League's top clubs, no tv executive is going to show them rather than Manchester United.

It is not going to happen, not now, not ever.

Still, it is easy to sympathise with Doswell and Ardley.

A lot of the old FA Cup magic has gone.

I'm 47, I grew up watching the FA Cup finals of the late 70s and 80s.

Some were wonderful, romantic encounters - Ipswich winning the trophy for the first time in 1978, Arsenal's last minute winner 12 months later; second division West Ham beating Arsenal in 1980, Ricky Villa's amazing solo goal in 1981, Brighton almost beating Manchester United in 1983, Coventry lifting the cup in 1987 and then losing to Sutton two years later.

Have we lost all that, never to get it back again?

I grew up with all the top flight teams taking the cup very seriously.

When Liverpool hosted non league Altrincham in the third round in 1981, they fielded their entire first team.

(As an aside, in 1981/81 my hometown club, Exeter, drew Liverpool in the second round of the League Cup. Despite winning the first leg 5-0 at Anfield, Bob Paisley still played virtually his entire first team - Dalglish, Hansen, Neal, Lawrenson, McDermott etc - in the second leg at Exeter. I'm sure Paisley never once thought not to - squad rotation didn't exist back then).

Following the fielding of below strength teams in front of low crowds - on what used to be one of the highlights of any football season, FA Cup third round day - FA chief executive Martin Glenn was forced on the defensive.

Glenn insisted top-flight clubs still value the competition.

"Rotation is a good thing," he admitted, though Saints fans still reeling from their side's Europa League exit might not totally agree with him.

"Giving a chance for young players to get real game experience is not a bad thing.

"It doesn't upset me. The Premier League teams really understand the value the FA Cup brings them.

"You'll get more viewings of your club on free to air television than you will on paid satellite. It's



Eastleigh fans pictured before last weekend's FA Cup third round tie at Brentford.

good for them because they get noticed and everyone wants to get to Wembley for a special occasion.

"People want to do well in the cup, but the positive side is that all of these bigger clubs have big squads, you want to give people game time and that's really important."

I don't doubt that last point, and I can easily see where Eddie

Howe, to name just one, is coming from.

If he didn't play his fringe first teamers and youngsters in an FA Cup tie against lower league opposition, when IS he going to play them?

I'm sure Cherries fans wouldn't want him to play them in league games when precious points are at stake.

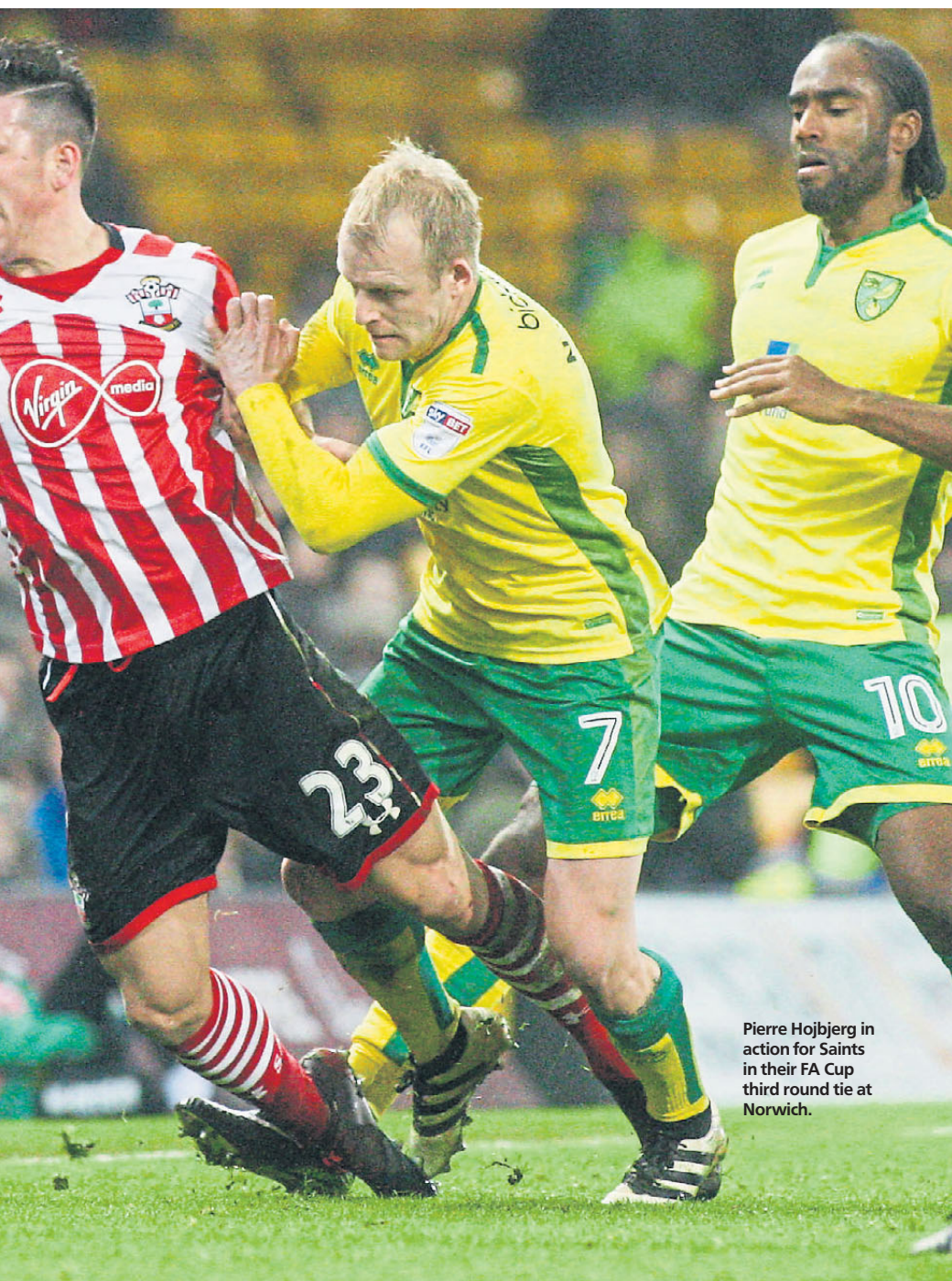
Ok, you could play them at a time when Cherries would be mathematically safe from the drop - but that might not be until the closing weeks of the season.

But then the fringe players would be taking part in games where there wasn't really anything on the result - unlike in an FA Cup tie against a team whose players are taking it incredibly



PINK

# change to save cup...



Pierre Højbjerg in action for Saints in their FA Cup third round tie at Norwich.

seriously.

Eddie Howe's main job at AFC Bournemouth is obvious. Having worked major miracles to get them dining at the top table of English football, he needs to keep them there.

Look at Wigan Athletic. In 2012/13 they won the FA Cup - the greatest day in their history - but a few days later were relegated

from the Premier League.

Within two years they were in League 1.

How many Wigan fans would have swapped the cup win for staying in the Premier League, furiously milking Rupert Murdoch's cash cow as they went?

How would Saints fans react if you told them Claude Puel would win in the FA Cup this term, but

the team would be relegated?

Here you go, Saints supporters, a wonderful day out at Wembley and only the club's second ever FA Cup win - and more Europa League football next season to look out for. Oh, by the way, there's 46 league games to fit in - possibly some against Scunthorpe, Burton, Wigan, Brentford and Preston North End.

A fair swap?

So is that it, then? Will FA Cup third round days forever be like last weekend? It goes without saying there have to be changes if the answer is to be 'no'.

How about this for a three-pronged revamp of the tournament ...

## 1) Reduce admission prices.

Clubs might not like it, but how about a new rule stating all adult tickets for FA Cup ties, from the first round to the quarter finals, be pegged at £10 and everyone else £1?

Why not?

That way, if those prices were in place, more parents could take their children to games.

Perhaps the parents who have been priced out of attending live games themselves, let alone being able to afford taking their sons and daughters as well.

I accept that would mean less money coming into the coffers of some clubs, but greed has helped reduce the FA Cup to the state it's now in.

Surely it's time to start thinking of the supporters. Now there's a novel concept.

## 2) Introduce seeding.

In the League Cup, every club who progresses from the first round is guaranteed a game against a club from the Premier League or Championship.

Is it time to bring in a similar rule in the FA Cup, in order to avoid non league clubs being drawn against League 1 or League 2 opponents?

There are 20 second round winners every season. They could be seeded to guarantee a tie against a top flight or Championship club. The remaining 24 teams from the top two divisions could obviously be drawn against each other, so you would still get all-Premier League ties - but hopefully they would be drowned out by more chance of romantic ties elsewhere.

Traditionalists probably wouldn't like it, but I'm sure they don't like what the FA Cup has mutated into either.

## 3) Award a Champions League place to the FA Cup winners.

There is, I know, not a snowball in the warmest part of hell's chance of this ever happening.

Would certainly help, though, with regards to increasing the competition's profile.

Perhaps Eddie Howe might have taken the Millwall game more seriously if he knew Cherries were only six wins away from the Champions League.

But, as I said earlier, he needs to take a look at his fringe players.

**Continued on page 36**

## Rebels yell

Dimitri Payet has refused to play for West Ham as he looks to force a transfer from the London club.

Here are some of football's other rebels who took on their employers.

### SAIDO BERAHINO

After West Brom rejected two transfer deadline day bids from Tottenham for him in September 2015, Berahino tweeted: "Sad how i cant say exactly how the club has treated me but i can officially say i will never play Jeremy Peace (the Albion chairman)." But he featured as a substitute in the Baggies' first match after that, apologised a few months later and remains at the club.

### CARLOS TEVEZ

The Argentinian was at the centre of a furore in September 2011 after boss Roberto Mancini said he refused to warm up during Manchester City's Champions League clash with Bayern Munich. Mancini intimidated Tevez



Dimitri Payet.

would never play for City again, the forward was suspended by the club, and he spent an extended, unauthorised spell in his homeland. Having failed to secure a transfer, Tevez was allowed to resume training with City after a five-month break. He issued an apology for his conduct, withdrew his appeal against City's fine of six weeks' wages and was back playing for the first team by March.

### PIERRE VAN HOOIJDONK

The Dutchman returned from the 1998 World Cup to find his transfer request from Nottingham Forest had been refused. Van Hooijdonk declared he had no option but to go on strike, and sat out the first four months of the new season. Eventually, Van Hooijdonk made a grudging return, notable for his goal against Derby, after which his team-mates refused to celebrate with him.



## On the move

Manchester United's ex-Saints midfielder Morgan Schneiderlin this week joined Everton for £22m.

The Frenchman is the latest in a long line of players to have moved between the north-west clubs.

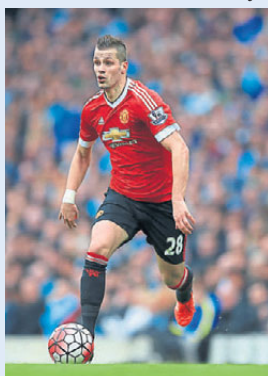
Here, the Sports Pink looks at some players who have gone from Old Trafford to Goodison Park, or vice versa.

### ANDREI KANCHELSKIS

Russian winger Kanchelskis was with United for four years after joining in 1991, helping them claim their first two Premier League titles and the FA Cup, then moved to Everton for a season and a half, with a brace in a 2-1 derby win at Liverpool ensuring his lasting popularity with Toffees fans.

### JOHN O'KANE

After being in United's youth set-up, defender O'Kane made only a handful of senior appearances for the club, with him being sent out on loan several times. He switched to Everton in early



Morgan Schneiderlin.

1998 and was on their books until late 1999, having been loaned by them to Burnley and Bolton.

### PHIL NEVILLE

Someone who had much greater success with United's first team after emerging from their youth ranks was full-back Neville, the 'Class of '92' member who made close to 400 appearances for the Red Devils - winning a glut of silverware along the way - over the course of a decade before transferring to Everton in 2005. He became Toffees captain and played over 300 times for them up to his retirement in 2013.

### JESPER BLOMQUIST

The Swedish winger's first season with United was their treble-winning one of 1998-99, and he started in the Champions League final. In November 2001 he moved to Everton, who he then left at the end of that season.

*Continued on facing page*

# PINK

# Super Seagulls

Simon  
Walter



TWENTY years after they were embroiled in a battle for their very existence, as well as Football League survival, Brighton & Hove Albion are on course to complete a remarkable journey by joining Saints and AFC Bournemouth in the Premier League.

In January 1997, the Seagulls were seven points adrift at the foot of the Football League, with homelessness awaiting them at the end of the season after the Goldstone Ground was inexplicably sold with no plans confirmed for a new stadium.

Fast forward to 2017 and in their sixth season at the wonderful Amex Stadium in Falmer, under the astute leadership of chairman Tony Bloom and manager Chris Hughton, they are ensconced in the Championship's top two, six points above the play-offs after 14 wins from the 18-match unbeaten run that ended at Preston today.

It is an astonishing story that began with their thrilling comeback during the last four months of the 1996-97 season.

Having looked dead certs to drop out of the Football League in the January, Brighton won nine of their next 18 games to set up the game to end all games at Hereford United on May 3, 1997.

The clubs were level on points at the bottom of what is now League Two going into the final match - Brighton having been deducted two points six months earlier following a series of pitch invasions in their home game against Lincoln City.

In those days positions were decided by most goals scored when teams were level on points - and Albion had 52 to Hereford's 49.

So an away draw would keep Brighton up, while a home win would be enough for Hereford to survive.

By this point I should disclose the fact that I have been a Brighton fan since 1989 and am proud to say I was at Edgar Street that day.

I was also at Wembley in 1991 when Brighton were 90 minutes from the top flight, only to lose 3-1 against Notts County, a year before the Premier League's inception.

Just six years later - and after two relegations and three managers in Barry Lloyd, Liam Brady and Jimmy Case - I made the journey to Hereford with my brother back across the border by train from his Cardiff home.

With the futures of both clubs in the balance, the tense atmosphere in the town was unlike any I have experienced before or since.

Elected to the Football League



in 1920, Brighton had 77 years of history to play for and staying up meant so much to Hereford.

It is hard to describe the tension in the stands that day as 8,532 supporters, including 3,500 from Brighton, awaited their respective clubs' fate.

But there was plenty of hope in their and not just because 18 years of Tory government had ended with Labour's triumph under Tony Blair 48 hours earlier.

A week earlier, I had been at the last game to be played at the Goldstone Ground, which Brighton won 1-0 against Doncaster to keep the dream alive. Stuart Storer's iconic volley lives on not just in the memories of those who were there but in the form of paintings and souvenirs that the club shop sells to this day.

Hopefully the clump of grass I took from the always-immaculate Goldstone turf lives on in the gar-

den of my parents' old home in Sussex suburbia.

With the points gap erased, we dared to hope.

But when Hereford took a 21st-minute lead through an own goal from Kerry Mayo, Brighton's flame haired young full-back, we feared the worst.

"If I stay in football until I'm 60, I doubt I'll experience a game as tense as Brighton's final League match against Hereford," recalled



PINK

# are flying high

The 3,500 Brighton fans at Hereford in 1997



Ex-Saint Craig Maskell in action for Brighton at Hereford on May 3, 1997



Brighton's Lewis Dunk (Left) celebrates with Anthony Knockaert after scoring their winning goal during the Sky Bet Championship match against Fulham at Craven Cottage earlier this month



Brighton fans celebrate the most important goal in their club's history

Steve Gritt, who had replaced Case as manager five months earlier.

"The prize at stake was so great that a lot of my players just seemed to freeze in the first half.

It was only after I'd got them in at half time and shook them up a bit by reminding them that there aren't too many grounds worth visiting in the Vauxhall Conference that they started to battle."

With an hour gone, Brighton

still trailed.

Then Robbie Reinelt scored the most important goal in the Seagulls' history, reacting first when a Craig Maskell volley hit the post

Reinelt only scored 22 goals in his entire career (first-choice ex-Saints strikers Maskell and Ian Baird scored 33 goals between them that season).

But the third of his seven for Brighton earned him legendary

status on an unforgettable sunny afternoon in Herefordshire.

As the respected national newspaper journalist Paul Hayward has said: "In between the Doncaster and Hereford games I saw an England international and I saw Barcelona play Real Madrid at the Nou Camp, but neither of those games came anywhere close to the Brighton glory at Hereford - a crap game at a run-down stadium, a five-hour drive away from

home."

This was just the first chapter in Brighton's incredible journey.

With the site of the Goldstone now a retail park - to this day fans avoid the drive past Toys R Us on Old Shoreham Road - the Seagulls migrated to Kent.

For the next two seasons fans had to make the 150-mile round trip to play 'home' games at Gillingham's Priestfield Stadium.

Brighton returned in 1999, beginning a 12-year tenure at the Withdean Stadium, an athletics stadium in which it was hard to generate an atmosphere from its roofless stands and, from the away end, poor views (Saints fans were less than impressed when they visited).

Despite its drawbacks, 'The Withdean' holds happy memories as the setting for four promotions (and two relegations) in 12 seasons.

Brighton won back-to-back titles in 2001 and 2002, at the start of the Bobby Zamora era.

We were relegated in our first season back in the Championship before winning the 2004 League One play-off final, only to be relegated again in 2006.

Five years later, in the last season at the Withdean, Albion were promoted from League One as champions (with Saints going up as runners-up) to ensure that the new era at the Amex stadium would begin in the Championship.

The club is now unrecognisable from the days of the dilapidated but much-loved Goldstone.

Even when John Byrne and Mike Small's strike partnership helped put us within 90 minutes of the old first division in 1991, Albion rarely attracted a crowd of 10,000.

Now Brighton are getting three times that (only Newcastle Aston Villa and Derby County are averaging bigger crowds this season) as they close in on an automatic promotion spot to the Premier League.

Should they go up it will be their first season in the top flight since 1979-83.

Their rise is not be quite as meteoric as that of Bournemouth's but it is certainly unique.

I thought back to the events of May 3, 1997 when I covered phoenix club Hereford FC's visit to AFC Totton in the first division of the Evostik Southern League earlier this season.

Twenty years on, Brighton may even go up as champions (leaders Newcastle United are yet to visit the Amex). No matter how they do it, promotion would make English football history with three of the four south-coast clubs in the top flight together for the first time.

from facing page

## WAYNE ROONEY

A product of Everton's youth system, Rooney made a memorable first-team breakthrough in 2002, joined United two years later and has gone on to win numerous trophies, captain the Red Devils and move alongside Sir Bobby Charlton as their joint-highest scorer with 249 goals.

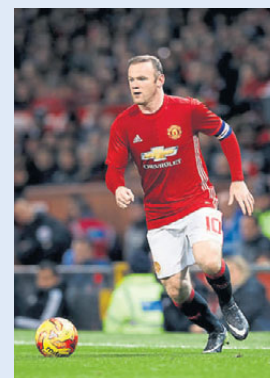
## TIM HOWARD

The American goalkeeper joined United in 2003 and won an FA Cup and League Cup with them before moving to Everton on loan in 2006-07, a switch made permanent later that term. He was with the Merseyside outfit, making over 400 appearances, until last summer, when he signed for the Colorado Rapids.

## LOUIS SAHA

French striker Saha netted 42 times for United between 2004 and 2008 and then joined Everton, for whom he scored 35 goals before a switch to Tottenham in 2012.

## DARRON GIBSON



Wayne Rooney.

Gibson made his senior United debut in 2005-06 and the Republic of Ireland midfielder had notched 10 goals in 60 appearances for the Red Devils by the time he transferred to Everton in January 2012. Has featured only once for the Toffees' first team so far this term.

## MAROUANE FELLAINI

David Moyes signed the tall Belgian midfielder for Everton in 2008 and, after that proved a success, he then brought him with him to United in 2013. Fellaini remains at the club and has been a divisive figure among their fans.

## TOM CLEVERLEY

Midfielder Cleverley was loaned to Leicester, Watford and Wigan before finally making his competitive senior bow for United in 2011. A loan to Aston Villa followed in 2014-15, at the end of which he signed for Everton permanently.



## World Cup gets bigger

FIFA has voted to expand the World Cup from 32 to 48 teams for the 2026 competition.

The new format is set to feature 16 groups of three followed by a 32-team knockout, which increases the number of games from 64 to 80 but remains inside a 32-day schedule.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at the major changes to the competition since it started in 1930.

### 1930

Host: Uruguay - 13 teams - 18 matches

There was no qualification campaign for the maiden tournament, with every FIFA member invited to take part. But only four European nations made the long trip by sea to South America. The format was four groups, one consisting of four teams and the rest of three. The group winners progressed to the semi-finals.

### 1934

Italy - 16 teams - 17 matches

Thirty-six teams were whittled down to 16 in qualifying, but reigning champions Uruguay refused to participate. The group stage was scrapped, with the competition settled in a straight knockout format. The 1938 edition was contested via the same process, though only 15 teams took part as qualifiers. Austria were disbanded prior to the tournament after the country was annexed by Germany.

### 1950

Brazil - 13 teams - 22 matches

Another 16-team tournament was planned but a number of withdrawals left 13 teams competing in Brazil. The groups returned and the quartet of winners progressed into another round-robin stage. This was the only World Cup not to feature a proper final, though the last group game between Brazil and Uruguay ended up being the decider.

### 1954

Switzerland - 16 teams - 26 matches

There were four teams per group, with the top two progressing to a knockout stage. But instead of a round-robin format in the groups, each team played just two games at that stage with extra-time used in drawn matches.

*Continued on facing page*

# PINK

# Who's off to the

**Simon Carter**



THE 2017 African Cup of Nations starts this weekend.

It features some high-profile Premier League names - as well as players from Northampton Town, Barnsley and Charlton Athletic.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at the British-based players in each squad.

## Group A Gabon

Didier N'Dong is the sole Premier League player in the Gabon squad.

The midfielder cost David Moyes £13.6m when he signed last August from French club Lorient, and has since been a regular for the Black Cats.

Cardiff midfielder Bruno Manga, who was signed by the Bluebirds in 2014 for £5m from Lorient, is also in the squad.

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, meanwhile, is the undoubted star of his country's bid to win the competition on home soil.

He 25-year-old struck 36 goals in all competitions for Borussia Dortmund last season and has netted 20 times in 22 appearances in 2016/17.

Aubameyang scored 37 French League goals for St Etienne in 87 appearances prior to moving to Dortmund in 2013.

He has since netted 70 Bundesliga goals in 95 starts plus a further 16 off the bench.

## Burkina Faso

Bertrand Traoré, the Chelsea striker currently on loan at Dutch giants Ajax, is the only Premier League player in the squad.

## Cameroon

Only one British-based player in the squad - Hearts midfielder Arnaud Djoum.

## Guinea-Bissau

There are no British-based players in the squad.

## Group B Algeria

Leicester pair Riyad Mahrez and Islam Slimani are central to Algerian hopes.

Mahrez was one of the stars of last season's Premier League title win, though he has only netted three times in the league in 2016/17.

Slimani cost the Foxes a record £29m when he arrived from Sporting Lisbon last summer, and he has so far scored five times in 13



Main picture: Ex-Saint Sadio Mane is preparing to play for Senegal in the African Cup of Nations. Aston Villa's Jordan Ayew, above right, will also play in the tournament.

appearances - including the winner on his last outing against West Ham on New Year's Eve.

Watford midfielder Adlène Guedioura, who has made 13 appearances for the Hornets this season, completes the Premier League interest.

Also included in the Algerian squad is midfielder Saphir Taider. Now at Italians Bologna, he ar-

rived on loan at St Mary's in early August 2014.

Ronald Koeman wasn't impressed, though, and he left the south coast to return to parent club Inter Milan just a few weeks later.

## Tunisia

Sunderland midfielder Wahbi

Khazri, signed from Bordeaux by Sam Allardyce in the January 2016 transfer window, provides the sole Premier League presence.

## Senegal

Ex-Saint Sadio Mane leads a four-strong Premier League presence in the Senegal squad.



PINK

# African Nations?

## How the World Cup has grown

from facing page

The format was tweaked in 1958, introducing three group games and dropping extra-time until the knockout stages, and that system would remain in place until 1974.

### 1974

West Germany - 16 teams - 38 matches The first part remained untouched but the knockout stages were replaced with a second group stage, with the two winners progressing to the final. The 1978 edition followed the same format, with the only change being the introduction of penalties as a tie-breaker for the final and the third-place play-off, though neither game required a shoot-out.

### 1982

Spain - 24 teams - 52 matches

The first major increase of participants delivered another change to the schedule. The first group stage consisted of six pools of four teams, with the second stage changing to four groups of three sides. The winners of each second stage group progressed to the semi-finals, where West Germany's win against France was the first finals game to be decided by penalties.

### 1986

Mexico - 24 teams - 52 matches

The second stage was switched to a knockout format, with the four best third-placed teams also progressing from the groups. This would remain the format for the next 12 years, though the 1994 competition introduced three points for a win instead of two.

### 1998

France - 32 teams - 64 matches

A format that will remain in place until Qatar 2022 was introduced. It saw eight groups of four teams, with the top two sides progressing to the knockout stages.

### 2026

TBC - 48 teams - 80 matches

As well as 16 groups of three followed by a 32-team knockout, a proposal remains in place to decide all drawn matches via penalty shoot-outs.



Wilfried Bony, left, is expected to lead the Ivory Coast attack.



Ex-Saint Saphir Taider

The 24-year-old has been in great form for Liverpool in 2016/17 after leaving Saints for £34m last summer.

With nine goals to his name - compared to 11 in the league for Saints in the whole of last season - Mane is currently Liverpool's leading Premier League marksman.

Merseyside colleague Idrissa

Gueye, who cost Everton over £10m last summer when he signed from Aston Villa, is also in the Senegal squad along with West Ham's Cheikhou Kouyaté and Mame Biram Diouf of Stoke City.

Kouyaté has scored three times in 23 appearances for the Hammers this term - two of his goals coming in the Europa League

against Domzale last summer.

Striker Diouf has scored 17 Premier League goals in 75 outings for Stoke - but he has yet to get off the mark in 17 appearances in all competitions this term.

A fifth English-based player, Newcastle midfielder Mohamed Diamé, is also in the squad.

## Zimbabwe

No Premier League-based players, but there is one in the Zimbabwe squad who has played at St Mary's this season - Sparta Prague defender Costa Nhamoinesu.

In addition, the country also possess players with the best names in the tournament - Teenage Hadebe, Knowledge Musona, Marvelous Nakamba and Hardlife Zvirekwi.

Teenage plays for a Zimbabwean League club who rejoice in the name Chicken Inn FC.

## Group C

### Ivory Coast

A hefty Premier League presence in the Ivorian squad, including one player who has won senior England caps.

Crystal Palace winger Wilfried Zaha made his England debut as a sub in the 4-2 loss in Sweden in November 2012.

Now, though, he has switched allegiances and will play for Ivory Coast in his first African Cup of Nations tournament.

He is joined in the squad by defenders Eric Bailly (Manchester United) and Lamine Koné (Sunderland) and Cherries attacker Max Gradel.

Gradel has only made seven club appearances this season, with his last coming against Tottenham on October 22.

Stoke City striker Wilfried Bony should lead the Ivorian attack.

Signed by Manchester City for £28m from Swansea in the 2015 January transfer window, he has scored just twice in 10 league outings while on loan to the Potters in 2016/17.

Ironically, both those goals came against former club Swansea.

Aston Villa's Jonathan Kodjia is another forward option.

Signed for £11m from Bristol City last summer, he currently has nine goals in 23 appearances for Villa.

### DR Congo

Gabriel Zakuani is almost certainly the first Northampton Town player ever to appear in the African Cup of Nations.

The defender - once signed by Fulham from Leyton Orient for £1m - has been a regular for the Cobblers this term after signing from Peterborough last summer.

Norwich midfielder Youssouf Mulumbu is also included, as is Neeskens Kebano (15 appearances for Fulham this term).

Jacques Maghoma has been a regular in Birmingham's midfield this term, while defender Chancel Mbemba has played eight times for Newcastle United.

Continued on page 27



# Daily Echo

## FIND THE BALL

### THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT

# £19,000

or £1,000 nearest miss prize...

**PLUS 70 consolation prizes of £15 each week**

20 for Southern Daily Echo  
10 for Daily Echo Bournemouth  
10 for Dorset Echo  
10 for Sunday Independent  
10 for Brighton Argus



**FIND THE BALL** is a test of skill and football knowledge and is open to readers of the Southampton, Bournemouth, Dorset Echos, Brighton Argus and Sunday Independent, Plymouth.

You have to use your skill and judgement to determine the exact centre of the ball.

Mark an X with a ballpoint pen on the picture where you consider that position to be—clear rubber stamps and self adhesive labels will also be accepted.

Every coupon will be carefully examined and the jackpot prize will be paid to the entrant whose cross marks the exact centre of the ball when the photograph was taken.

If the Jackpot is not won, £1,000 will be added to next week's jackpot.

The nearest-miss prize of £1,000 will be paid out each week to the competitor whose cross is nearest to the centre of the ball when there is no jackpot winner.

When a jackpot has been won the next week's prize reverts back to £5,000 and the nearest-miss prize stays at £1,000.

If the Jackpot is not won after 46 weeks, when standing at £50,000, the nearest miss prize of £1,000 will be paid out and the jackpot will remain at £50,000 each week until there is a jackpot winner, then the jackpot starts again at £5,000, with the nearest miss prize remaining at £1,000 each week.

If there is more than one winner the jackpot will be shared and, similarly, if there is more than one runner-up the nearest miss prize will also be shared.

## RESULTS



CLOSING DATE FOR POSTAL ENTRIES  
Thursday  
9am,  
19th Jan  
2017  
Names of winners will be published on Saturday, 21st Jan, Saturday or Sunday 22nd Jan

## Winners

Competition number S02

### JACKPOT WINNER NO WINNER

#### CONGRATULATIONS

H Comaschi Brighton, Sussex

who wins the nearest miss prize of £1,000

The following competitors each receive a consolation prize of £15

M Cavell	Southampton, Hants	B Lowe	Eastleigh, Hants
H Chulk	Southampton, Hants	H Martel	Southampton, Hants
J Cleary	Baddesley, Hants	T Mason	Locks Heath, Hants
P Coombes	Bartley, Hants	P Moore	Southampton, Hants
S Greenwood	Southampton, Hants	J O'Donnell	Fordingbridge, Hants
G Grinham	Southampton, Hants	J Quigley	Salisbury, Wilts
P Harbut	Southampton, Hants	T Thomas	Southampton, Hants
I Keegan	Southampton, Hants	R Underhill	Southampton, Hants
L Knights	Netley Abbey, Hants	F Williams	Southampton, Hants
A Lewis	Totton, Hants	K Willis	Southampton, Hants

## Rules

1. You are allowed a minimum of 60 crosses and a maximum of 450 per coupon. Coupons with 451 or more will be disqualified. Entries altered defaced or mutilated will be invalid. Crosses must be distinct and separate. 2. Competitors may submit as many coupons as they wish. Members of a family can send their entries in one envelope with a covering postal order or cheque. 3. No responsibility can be accepted for entries delayed, lost or mislaid. Proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. 4. Payment may be made by postal order or cheque for the correct amount payable to Newsquest, and crossed 'X' Co. Stamps will not be accepted in payment. 5. A competitor cannot win more than one share of the prize money across all titles each week. 6. The Editor's decision on winning entry or entries and matters relating to this competition is binding in honour only. NO CORRESPONDENCE CAN BE ENTERED INTO. 7. Employees of NEWSQUEST Media Group and subsidiary companies and members of their families are not eligible to enter the competition. 8. Address entries to FTB, Newspaper House, Test Lane, Southampton, SO16 9JX in a sealed envelope. Understamped entries are not accepted. 9. Prize monies are held for and on behalf of winners. 10. Do not send cash in the post. 11. Winners will be required to participate in publicity. 12. Photocopies not accepted. 13. For rules go to [www.dailyecho.co.uk/promotions/rules](http://www.dailyecho.co.uk/promotions/rules). 14. If you pay by cheque your prize money will be paid to you once cheque has cleared.

An incident in an Totton v Hereford match



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Daily Echo

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Bournemouth Echo: 12 noon Tuesday  
Southern Daily Echo: 12 noon Tuesday  
Dorset Echo: Closing time Monday

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PINK

# Will it be sixth time lucky for Sir Andy?



Andy Murray

WORLD number one Sir Andy Murray will be seeking a first Australian Open title this year, having lost the final five times since 2010. Here, the Sports Pink looks at the 29-year-old Scot's Melbourne final heartbreak.

## 2010, Roger Federer (6-3 6-4 7-6)

Murray dropped one set on the route up to the final, defeating Rafael Nadal and Marin Cilic along the way. However, the Swiss proved too strong in the final, outclassing Murray in straight sets.

Federer's experience shone through in his performance, whereas Murray's inexperience brought out nerves and tension - playing predictable, risk-free tennis which was easy for the world's top ranked player to play against.

## 2011, Novak Djokovic (6-4 6-2 6-3)

Andy Murray breezed into the quarter-finals having only lost 22 games, without dropping a

single set. He battled his way through to the final by defeating Alexandr Dolgoplov and David Ferrer but once again was second best in the final. This time it was a different opponent in Novak Djokovic but the outcome was the same, losing in straight sets.

## 2013, Novak Djokovic (6-7 7-6 6-3 6-2)

Murray was seeking revenge on Djokovic after the 2011 final but also the 2012 semi-final as the Serb came out on top in a thrilling five-set encounter - Murray led 2-1 up but could not see the game out. The Scot returned in 2013 in fine form, comfortably making it to the semi-final without dropping a set, winning a five-set semi against Roger Federer. Murray took the first set in the final but squandered five break points to take an early advantage in the second set. He paid as Djokovic won the next three sets to become the first man in the 'Open' era to win the tournament

three times in a row.

## 2015, Novak Djokovic (7-6 6-7 6-3 6-0)

It was the third time Murray had met Djokovic in the Australian Open final and the Serb continued to be Murray's worst nightmare. The opening two sets both went to a tie-break in which both players came through one set each. Murray had chances in the third set but failed to take them and went on get whitewashed in the final set.

## 2016, Novak Djokovic (6-1 7-5 7-6)

The final included many mistakes from both players but unfortunately for Murray, he made too many which also proved too costly. Djokovic came out on top in straight sets and equalled Roy Emerson's all-time men's record of six Australian Open singles titles. Murray became only the second man to lose five finals at the same Grand Slam tournament since the 'Open' era began in 1968.

# African ambitions

from page 25

Jordan Botaka is a Leeds striker currently on loan to League 1 club Charlton, where he has yet to score in 18 appearances (though only five of them have been starts).

There is also one Premier League player - Hull City striker Dieumerci Mbokani.

On loan from Dynamo Kiev, the 31-year-old has not scored this season and has only hit the headlines when he got sent off against Newcastle in the League Cup.

## Morocco

Watford midfielder Nordin Amrabat has been a regular for the Hornets this term.

Elsewhere, midfielder Romain Saïss made an interesting start to his Wolves career at the start of the season when he was booked in each of his first four games after signing from French club Angers.

Saints were hoping to be represented here by Soufiane Boufal, but he withdrew earlier this week due to injury.

## Togo

Striker Floyd Ayité didn't score in any of his first 12 games for Fulham after signing from French club Bastia last summer. He then scored four in four, including a double in a 4-4 draw against Wolves.

## Group D

## Ghana

Chelsea splashed out £3.5m on Porto midfielder Christian Atsu in 2013.

He has yet to make his Blues debut, and last season was loaned out to Cherries - just two League Cup appearances - and Spanish club Malaga.

He is currently on loan to Championship high fliers Newcastle,



Newcastle United's Christian Atsu, left, who is in the Ghana squad.

where he has scored three times in 19 appearances.

This time last year Andy Yiadom was playing under Eastleigh boss Martin Allen at Barnet.

Moving onto Barnsley last summer, the 25-year-old is also part of ex-Pompey manager Avram Grant's Ghana squad.

After scoring 12 league goals for Swansea in 2015/16, André Ayew moved to West Ham for £20m last summer.

The striker has so far only scored once in 12 league outings for the Hammers - and, like Bony, that was against his former club, Swansea.

Aston Villa's Jordan Ayew - three goals in 22 club outings in 2016/17 - is another option for

Grant.

Leicester midfielder Daniel Amartey is also in the squad, having made 22 appearances this season after a £5m move from Copenhagen in the January 2016 transfer window.

## Mali

Crystal Palace midfielder Bakary Sako provides the sole Premier League presence.

He has appeared in just five games for his club in 2016/17, two of them against Saints - the League Cup loss at St Mary's and the Premier League game in December.

## Egypt

Ahmed Elmohamady has been a regular for Hull City this season, missing only one game - and that was due to suspension after being sent off in his side's 5-1 caning at Anfield.

Midfielder Mohamed Elneny has played 18 times for Arsenal this term.

Teenager Ramadan Sobhi, who has made nine appearances for Stoke this term, is also in the squad.

The 19-year-old was a £5m signing from Egyptian club Al Ahly last summer.

## Uganda

There is no British-based presence in the Ugandan squad.

## Kelly facts

England women's record goalscorer and Arsenal striker Kelly Smith has announced her retirement from football. Here, the Sports Pink takes a look at some of the numbers behind the 38-year-old's career.

8

the age at which Smith started playing football when she joined her local boys team.

117

England caps she earned before retiring from international football in 2015.

5

FA Cups won with Arsenal, scoring six goals in those five finals.

46

goals scored for England.

2

times she was named FA Women's Players' Player of the year (2006 and 2007).

4

European Championships Smith was involved in with England.

9

career hat-tricks.

2

World Cups Smith played in.

16

the age at which Smith won her first senior England cap.

4

times Smith was named in FIFA's top 10 players of the year.

125

goals scored for Arsenal Ladies, in 144 appearances.



Kelly Smith



  
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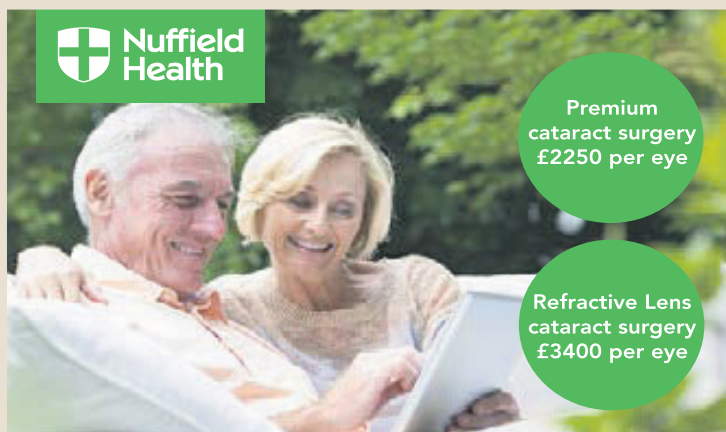
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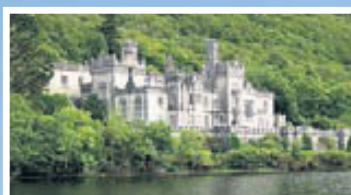
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# PINK

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NATIONAL LEAGUE		NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH		NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH		SOUTHERN LEAGUE		SOUTHERN LEAGUE		SOUTHERN LEAGUE	
August						Division 1 South & West		Division 1 South & West		Division 1 South & West	
6 Guiseley (H)	W 2-1	August		August		August		August		August	
9 Braintree (A)	D 1-1	6 Maidenhead United (a)	L 0-3	6 Ebbsfleet United (A )	L 0-4	6 Hereford (H)	L 1-2	6 Evesham Utd (H)	W 1-0	6 Slimbridge (A)	L 3-5
13 Tranmere (A)	L 1-2	9 Truro City (h)	W 3-1	9 Maidenhead United ( H )	W 1-0	9 Swindon Supermarine (A)	L 0-1	10 Winchester City (A)	L 2-4	10 Salisbury (H)	W 4-2
16 Dover (H)	L 2-4	13 Eastbourne Borough (H)	W 3-1	13 Bishop's Stortford (H)	W 1-0	13 North Leigh (A)	W 3-2	13 Taunton Town (A)	L 1-3	13 Mangotsfield United (H)	L 0-2
20 Wrexham (A)	D 0-0	16 Dartford (A)	D 0-0	16 Weston-Super-Mare (A)	D 0-0	16 Larkhall Athletic (H)	L 1-6	16 Bishops Cleeve (H)	W 4-1	16 Didcot Town (A)	L 0-4
27 Solihull Moors (H)	W 2-0	20 East Thurrock United (A)	L 1-5	20 Margate (H)	W 1-0	27 Bishops Cleeve (A)	L 2-3	27 Mangotsfield United (H)	W 2-1	27 Tiverton Town (H)	L 0-4
29 Bromley (A)	W 5-0	27 Bishop's Stortford (H)	L 0-1	27 Hemel Hempstead Town (A)	W 4-2	29 Salisbury (H)	L 0-4	29 AFC Totton (A)	W 4-0	29 Wimborne Town (A)	D 2-2
29 Oxford City (A)		29 Oxford City (A)	W 2-1	29 Bath City (H)	W 1-0						
September											
3 North Ferriby (H)	W 2-0	September		September		September		September		September	
10 Southport (H)	D 1-1	3 Ebbsfleet United (H)	W 1-0	3 Wealdstone (A)	D 2-2	10 Evesham United (A)	D 0-0	10 Bideford (H)	D 4-4	10 Hereford (H)	L 0-2
13 Forest Green (A)	D 1-1	6 Hampton & RB (H)	D 1-1	6 St Albans City (A)	L 0-4	24 Shortwood United (A)	L 1-2	24 Yate Town (A)	L 1-3	24 Bridgwater Town (H)	W 4-1
17 Macclesfield (A)	W 1-0	10 Hungerford Town (A)	D 3-3	10 Eastbourne Borough (H)	D 1-1	27 Wimborne Town (H)	L 1-6	27 Didcot Town (H)	W 3-2	27 Wantage Town (A)	W 1-0
24 Sutton (H)	W 2-1	13 Bath City (A)	0-4	13 Truro City (A)	D 0-0						
24 Margate (H)		24 Margate (H)	W 1-0	24 Welling United (H)	W 2-1						
October						October		October		October	
1 Woking (A)	D 3-3	October		October		1 Yate Town (H)	D 1-1	15 Slimbridge (A)	L 1-2	15 Didcot (H)	W 3-1
4 Maidstone (H)	W 3-0	8 St. Albans City (A)	L 1-2	8 Hampton & Richmond (A)	W 2-0	15 Tiverton Town (A)	L 2-3	18 North Leigh (A)	L 2-3	18 Shortwood (A)	L 1-2
8 Dagenham & Red (H)	L 0-1	15 Chelmsford City (H)	L 0-6	15 Oxford City (H)	L 1-3	22 Slimbridge (H)	W 3-1	22 Barnstaple Town (H)	W 5-0	22 Taunton Town (A)	L 1-3
22 Lincoln (A)	D 0-0	22 Wealdstone (H)	L 1-3	22 Hungerford Town (A)	W 1-0	25 Didcot Town (A)	L 2-3			26 Bishops Cleeve (H)	L 1-2
25 Torquay (H)	W 3-0	29 Hemel Hempstead Tn (A)	W 2-1	29 East Thurrock United (H)	D 1-1			November		November	
29 Barrow (A)	L 0-4					November		5 Larkhall Athletic (A)	W 5-1	5 Swindon Supermarine (A)	W 2-0
		November		November		5 Bridgwater Town (H)	W 2-1	12 Tiverton Town (H)	L 1-2	16 North Leigh (H)	L 1-2
November		5 Welling United (H)	D 1-1	5 Chelmsford City (H)	W 4-0	12 Mangotsfield United (A)	L 0-3	19 Taunton Town (H)	W 5-2	19 Mangotsfield United (A)	A-A
12 York (H)	D 1-1	12 Weston-super-Mare (A)	D 1-1	12 Concord Rangers (A)	L 2-3	19 North Leigh (H)	L 0-3	26 Evesham Utd (A)	L 2-3	29 Salisbury (A)	PP
19 Gateshead (A)	D 2-2	19 Concord Rangers (H)	L 2-5	19 Whitehawk (H)	W 3-1	23 Larkhall Athletic (A)	D 0-0	29 Winchester City (H)	PP		
22 Aldershot (A)	W 1-0					26 Hereford (A)	L 0-5				
26 Chester (H)	L 0-3	December		December		29 Swindon Supermarine (H)	L 1-2	December		December	
29 Maidstone (A)	L 1-2	3 Whitehawk (A)	D 4-4	3 Dartford (A)	L 1-2	December		3 Hereford (A)	L 1-3	3 Barnstaple Town (A)	W 3-1
		17 Ebbsfleet United (A)	L 0-2	17 Wealdstone (H)	D 1-1	3 Wantage Town (H)	D 2-2	6 Bishops Cleeve (A)	W 5-0	10 Paulton Rovers (H)	W 3-1
December		26 Poole Town (H)	L 0-2	26 Gosport Borough (A)	W 2-0	10 Bideford (A)	D 0-0	10 Shortwood Utd (H)	W 1-0	14 Yate (H)	W 1-0
17 Southport (A)	L 3-4					13 Taunton (H)	L 1-3	17 Bridgwater Town (A)	W 3-1	17 Bideford (A)	W 2-1
26 Boreham Wood (H)	D 2-2	January		January		17 Paulton Rovers (H)	W 1-0	20 Paulton (A)	W 3-0	21 Slimbridge (H)	W 7-0
		2 Poole Town (A)	L 0-7	2 Gosport Borough (H)	W 7-0	26 Salisbury (A)	L 0-2	26 AFC Totton (H)	W 2-0	26 Wimborne Town (H)	L 0-1
January		7 Hungerford Town (A)	L 1-4	7 Eastbourne Borough (A)	D 0-0						
1 Boreham Wood (A)	W 1-0	14 East Thurrock United	(H)	14 Margate	(A)	January		January		January	
21 Sutton	(A)	21 Hampton & RB	(A)	21 St Albans City	(H)	2 Winchester City (H)	L 1-3	2 Wimborne Town (A)	W 1-0	2 AFC Totton (A)	W 3-1
24 Mansfield	(H)	28 Maidenhead United	(H)	28 Ebbsfleet United	(H)	7 Taunton Town (A)	L 0-5	7 North Leigh (H)	L 1-2	7 Shortwood Utd (H)	W 4-3
28 Woking	(H)					14 Barnstaple Town	(H)	14 Wantage Town	(A)	11 Evesham (A)	L 1-3
		February		February		21 Paulton Rovers	(A)	21 Bridgwater Town	(H)	14 Larkhall Athletic	(A)
February		4 Truro City	(A)	4 Maidenhead United	(A)	28 Shortwood United	(H)	28 Yate Town	(H)	21 Bideford	(H)
4 Braintree	(H)	11 Dartford	(H)	11 Weston-Super-Mare	(H)			February		28 Bridgwater Town	(A)
11 Guiseley	(A)	18 Eastbourne Borough	(A)	18 Bishop's Stortford	(A)	February		4 Didcot Town	(A)	February	
18 Tranmere	(H)	25 Hemel Hempstead Town	(H)	25 East Thurrock United	(A)	4 Wimborne Town	(A)	11 Slimbridge	(H)	4 Wantage Town	(H)
25 Dover	(A)					11 Tiverton Town	(H)	18 Swindon Supermarine	(A)	11 North Leigh	(A)
28 Aldershot	(H)	March		March		18 Yate Town	(A)	25 Paulton Rovers	(H)	18 Evesham Utd	(H)
		4 Wealdstone	(A)	4 Hungerford Town	(H)	25 Didcot Town	(H)			25 Bishops Cleeve	(A)
March		11 Margate	(A)	11 Welling United	(A)			March			
4 York	(A)	18 St. Albans City	(H)	18 Hampton & Richmond	(H)	March		4 Barnstaple Town	(A)	March	
11 Barrow	(H)	21 Bath City	(H)	21 Truro City	(H)	4 Slimbridge	(A)	11 Larkhall Athletic	(H)	4 Taunton Town	(H)
18 Chester	(A)	25 Chelmsford City	(A)	25 Oxford City	(A)	11 Bridgwater Town	(A)	18 Tiverton Town	(A)	11 Swindon Supermarine	(H)
21 Torquay	(A)					18 Mangotsfield United	(H)	25 Hereford	(H)	18 Yate Town	(A)
25 Gateshead	(H)	April		April		25 Wantage Town	(A)			25 Barnstaple Town	(H)
		1 Weston-super-Mare	(H)	1 Concord Rangers	(H)			April			
April		8 Welling United	(A)	8 Chelmsford City	(H)	April		1 Shortwood Utd	(A)	April	
1 Dagenham & Red	(A)	14 Bishop's Stortford	(A)	15 Hemel Hempstead Town	(H)	1 Bideford	(H)	8 Wantage Town	(H)	1 Paulton Rovers	(A)
8 Lincoln	(H)	17 Oxford City	(H)	17 Bath City	(A)	8 Barnstaple Town	(A)	15 Mangotsfield Utd	(A)	8 Larkhall Athletic	(H)
14 North Ferriby	(A)	22 Concord Rangers	(A)	22 Whitehawk	(A)	15 Bishops Cleeve	(H)	17 Wimborne Town	(H)	15 Tiverton Town	(A)
17 Bromley	(H)	29 Whitehawk	(H)	29 Dartford	(H)	17 Winchester City	(A)	22 Bideford	(A)	17 AFC Totton	(H)
22 Solihull Moors	(A)					22 Evesham	(H)			22 Hereford	(A)
29 Wrexham	(H)										
TBA: Forest Green	(H)										
TBA: Macclesfield	(H)										



PINK

# Saints snapper on target for Cricketers

CRICKETERS Arms (Fair Oak) are still top of the City of Southampton League's Senior Division thanks to a 3-1 win against CDA.

Southampton FC Photographer Matt Watson's goal meant it was level at half-time but Joe Moore netted his second for the leaders, for whom Brad Rowthorne also scored.

The top two sides in Junior One shared a six-goal thriller at Wyvern College.

Two-goal Jack Daley gave second-placed King George a 2-1 half-time lead.

But Aiden Collins and Taylor Young ensured a 3-3 draw for AFC Soton to preserve their three-point lead.

Manraj Birring scored for AFC Soton in the first half and Rich Bampton netted for King

George after the break.

AFC Bishopstoke widened the gap between themselves and AFC Carpeting with their second win against the bottom-of-Junior One side sin as many games.

In their first game since giving Carpeting an, erm, carpeting on December 18, the sides returned to Fleming Park, where Bishopstoke followed up last month's 3-1 win with a 4-1 success.

It was goalless at half-time but James Bright netted a second-half hat-trick and Gabe Hunt also scored for Bishopstoke. Kyle Morgan's goal for Carpeting was academic.

Two-goal Pete Barlow scored with his last kick before hanging up his boots as AFC

Portsmouth won 5-2 against point-less AFC Dorchester in Junior Two.

Third-placed Portsmouth led 1-0 at half-time through Rob North but Simor Zacharides netted a brace and Barlow went out in style when he scored a valedictory second with the last kick of the game.

Jordans Saint and Smith scored for a Dorchester side that has lost all of its nine league games this season.

Second-placed Curbridge suffered a second heavy defeat in as many games after being stunned 5-0 by Fryern, for whom Nathan Roles scored a second-half hat-trick.

Andy Probert and Dean Page also netted for the mid-table outfit.

## Spitfire still 100 per cent

CITY of Southampton Junior Three leaders AFC Spitfire came from behind to beat third-placed Portsmouth United.

Lewis Smith's second-half brace ensured Spitfire maintained their 100 per cent record after Brendon Shephard had given Portsmouth a first-half lead from the penalty spot.

But second-placed Bridge Manor maintained the pressure with a seventh straight win, 8-2 at Forest Home. Denis Jack scored a debut hat-trick as they scored eight goals for the third match in succession. Callum Fielder (2), Shah Bani-Sadr, Aaron Fielder and Ben Baker-Colborne also scored.

Junior Four leaders Chamberlayne Athletic Reserves maintained their 100 per cent record with a 3-1 win at Portsmouth United Reserves.

Dan Diaper and Connor Bray put them 2-1 up at half-time before Ross Walton secured the points. Jimi John scored for third-placed Portsmouth.

Junior Five leaders Testwood Tornadoes extended their lead with a 3-1 win at AFC Hedge End Town. After a goalless first half, Dillian Hopkins scored twice and Lee Wilkinson also netted as Testwood made it five wins on the bounce. Callum Parker replied.

AFC Itchen won their first league game since mid-October at Banister Park. Tom Foster gave them a 1-0 half-time lead and Josh Mitchell and Ray Flanders ensured the victory, despite Nathan Carr's own goal.

Sporting Compass smashed ten past Junior Five whipping boys Cricks AFC -goals coming from Sam Driscoll (4), Toby Wilkes (3), Ben Driscoll, Neil Curran and Nick Pompa. Dan Flux replied.

Junior Six leaders Testlands Reserves made it 12 wins out of 13 by avenging their only defeat against Southern Sports.

Testlands had lost 3-1 in October but triumphed 6-1, with man-of-the-match Jake Biffin and debutant Ben Baddams netting a brace apiece.

Sean Haines set up four of the goals and scored one but Biffin took the Mom award for his second goal - a spectacular 25-yarder.

Substitute Luca Cordella also scored.

# Athletic on track for silverware

CHAMBERLAYNE Athletic progressed to the fourth round of the Hampshire FA Senior Cup (sponsored by ECU Line Ltd) thanks to a 2-1 win against Pompey-based Kerley Builders Ltd.

First-half goals from Justyn Penfold and Ryan Stephenson sent them through.

Boyatt Wood crashed 8-0 against Co-Op Dragons.

Lyndhurst JFC lost 3-1 at home to FC Fleet in the third round of the Hampshire FA Junior A Cup (sponsored by Trophies4U) and there were away defeats for Durlley and Hunters Inn at the same stage of the competition - 7-1 against Freehouse and 6-1 at AFC Farnham Park respectively.

Ricky Rappini and Albert Brookfield scored the respective consolation goals.

Barway raised £50 for the Football for Cancer Charity with a pre-match whip round before beating Football for Cancer Reserves 12-0 in the third round of the Hampshire FA Junior B Cup (sponsored by Trophies 4U).

It was only 2-0 at half-time but then Nathan Gray completed his five-goal salvo, Emlyn Jones and Wayne Atkins netted a brace apiece and Liam Buckley, Josh Knight and Ricky Hart also scored.

Winsor United are also through thanks to Brett Withey's four goals in a 7-2 win against Queens Head United. It was 2-1 at half-time but Withey ensured the win after goals from Nathan Wilcock, Ryan Hartley and Colin Eade.

Mottisfont's Matt Bosanquet anchored his side's win at North Warnborough Reserves with a hat-trick in a 3-1 win.

Sholing Monks had a solitary goal from Reeve Davis to show for



AFC Totton's Nick Watts turns a Barnstaple Town opponent. Match report: page 9

their 9-1 humbling at Denmead.

Nemesis turned on the style in the second half of their Junior C Cup third-round tie against Junior Six rivals Hamwic Rovers.

It was level at 1-1 at half-time

but Adam Hooper added to Adam Lyons' goal with a brace and Lewis Parker and Jack Waters also scored. Dan Blake and James Carrnell scored for Hamwic.

Athletico Romsey Sunday

cruised into the fourth round with a 6-1 win at Co-Op Dragons Reserves. Will Pascal bagged a hat-trick and Mark Walker, Jamie Parker and Tom Probert also scored.



PINK

# The lifespan of Mr Average PL boss

MIKE Phelan recently became the latest casualty of the Premier League manager conveyor-belt.

The Hull City chief was the third boss to be sacked in less than a fortnight, following Bob Bradley at Swansea and Alan Pardew at Crystal Palace.

Phelan's Premier League managerial career spanned just 20 games in 165 days with a below-average win rate of just 15%.

By comparison, the average Premier League manager will coach in the top flight for less than two and a half years.

He will coach two different sides and win only a third of his games, and he won't win a trophy.

They are the conclusions from a study looking at all 210 managers since the Premier League came into being in 1992.

The research, compiled by money-saving site Voucherbox.co.uk, looked at every manager's statistics across the last 24 seasons and revealed:

- The average manager has two jobs, across 1,165 days and will take the helm for 91 games. They will oversee 33 wins, 25 draws and 33 losses – giving them a 30% win rate. On average, they won't win a trophy.

- The most 'average' Premier League manager is former Manchester City and Nottingham Forest boss Stuart Pearce, who registered 32 wins and 26 draws at a win percentage of 30.77%

- Harry Redknapp has had the most Premier League jobs (six), followed by Sam Allardyce and Mark Hughes who are on five each

- Sir Alex Ferguson managed the most games (810), followed by Arsene Wenger (763) and Redknapp (641)

- Redknapp has presided over the most losses at 238, with Allardyce just behind on 181

- Nearly 60 per cent of all managers only get one Premier League job. Out of the 209 bosses since 1992, only 85 got a second job.

- Whilst most observers would clearly name Ferguson as the greatest ever Premier League manager, the mantle of worst is up for some debate.

- Statistically, Terry Connor's zero wins from 13 games as Wolves caretaker boss would give him that title, although Remi Garde's tenure at Villa sees him holding the worst record for anyone that has managed 20 games or more.

- The Frenchman's woeful re-

Alan Pardew was sacked by Crystal Palace last month.



Sacked - Hull City dismissed Mike Phelan, above, while Swansea sacked Bob Bradley.

turn of ten per cent is closely followed by former Swindon manager John Gorman who won only five out of his 42 games in Swindon's sole Premier League season.

- Only two Premier League managers in the study, that looked at all permanent and caretaker bosses, have a 100 per cent record, with David Unsworth and Scott Marshall both coaching for one game each and winning their respective matches.

- There are also four managers in the 'zero' club – Alex Inglethorpe, Graham Rix, David Kerslake and Kevin Bond were all named caretaker managers at their clubs but never took a game.

- The study also showed that when it comes to silverware, there are three bosses that dominate, stats showing that Ferguson, Wenger and Jose Mourinho have won more major trophies (49) than every other Premier

League Manager in total (48).

Shane Forster, Voucherbox UK Country Manager, said: "As fans we are used to hearing the familiar line of it being a 'results business' and that really is the case.

"With 60 per cent per cent of managers not getting a second shot at another Premier League club, it demonstrates just how ruthless top flight management really is and that life in the hot seat is a precarious one."

## Ron easily the best

IT will probably come as no surprise to learn that Ronald Koeman boasts the best win percentage ratio of any Saints boss in Premier League history.

The Dutchman won 36 of his 76 games, for a 47 per cent win ratio - seven per cent better than Glenn Hoddle.

Claude Puel is eighth in the list of the 15 managers who have taken charge in the Premier League era.

Ronald Koeman (76 Matches, 36 Wins, 15 draws, 25 Losses, 47%-win)

Glenn Hoddle (47 games, 19 wins, 11 draws, 17 losses, 40%)

Mauricio Pochettino (60 Matches, 23 Wins, 18 Draws, 19 Losses, 38.3%)

Paul Sturrock (13 games, 5 wins, 2 draws, 6 losses, 38%)

Gordon Strachan (93 games, 31 wins, 29 draws, 33 losses, 33%)

Alan Ball (60 games, 19 wins, 22 draws, 19 losses, 32%)

Dave Jones (95 Games, 29 wins, 19 draws, 47 losses, 31%)

Claude Puel (20 Matches, 6 Wins, 6 Draws, 8 Losses, 30%)

Stuart Gray (18 games, 5 wins, 2 draws, 11 losses, 28%)

Ian Branfoot (66 games, 18 wins, 14 draws, 34 losses, 27%)

Graeme Souness (38 games, 10 wins, 11 draws, 17 losses, 26%)

Dave Merrington (38 games, 9 wins, 11 draws, 18 losses, 24%)

Nigel Adkins (22 Games, 5 wins, 7 Draws, 10 Losses, 23%)

Harry Redknapp (22 games, 4 wins, 8 draws, 10 losses, 18%)

Steve Wigley (16 games, 1 win, 8 draws, 7 losses, 6.2%)



Ronald Koeman.



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PINK

## Global partners

Manchester United continue to expand their portfolio of global partners with Uber the latest company to become associated with the club.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at this and some of the club's other deals.

### UBER

The transportation company will benefit from the creation of a dedicated pick-up and drop-off zone at Old Trafford with other United-themed content being available for their customers around the world.

### NISSIN FOODS

The inventors of the world's first instant noodle have the distinction of being United's global noodle partner.

### 20th CENTURY FOX

The Hollywood giant is United's feature-film



Wayne Rooney

partner. One promotion saw Wayne Rooney feature in an X-Men trailer, fighting super-villain Apocalypse.

### CHO-A PHARM CO

Any United staff who come into prescription difficulties in Korea or Vietnam need not worry, for that is precisely the domain of their pharmaceutical partner in the region.

### EUROFOOD

This deal with the makers of the Euro Choco Pie has ensured there is a range of confectionery bearing the United crest across Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.

### MLILY

Became United's first mattress and pillow partner last year, vowing to support the club "in helping the sleep and

# Clubs can still dream, but greed rules ...



From page 21

Eddie Howe has a duty of care to them to try and improve them, so how's he going to do that if he doesn't play them in games that matter?

He can't do it in a reserve league as there is no competitive one around anymore.

Therefore, his only real options are the League Cup and FA Cup.

I'm sure Cherries fans would have liked an FA Cup run this term, but they can't complain too much - they've been spoiled in recent years, it's fair to say.

In life you can't have everything - just ask Wigan Athletic.

While being part of the cash-rich Premier League is the most important thing, the FA Cup will always play second fiddle.

The FA Cup always played second fiddle to the old First Division.

The main difference these days is that the fear factor among managers has increased.

That and the belief that some of today's leading Premier League players are seemingly incapable of playing a couple of times every

week.

At the bottom of it all, of course, is money.

There is more of it in the Premier League than in the FA Cup.

Clubs bank the best part of £800,000 every time they are shown live on Sky.

The FA Cup winners this season will receive £1.8m.

Football is still a Dream Factory, it always will be, but greed has now replaced romance as an over-riding emotion. I will leave you to consider whether that is a Bad Thing or not ....

# Colleges title race is 'far from over'

Mike Vimpany



ON THE face of it, Peter Symonds appear firmly on course for a second consecutive Hampshire Sixth Form Colleges League title.

Eight straight wins coinciding with chief rivals Barton Peveril and Itchen spilling points along the way has put the Winchester students in a powerful pole position.

But PSC coach Rob Kitley has warned that his currently unbeaten squad has some awkward fixtures just around the corner, writes Mike Vimpany.

"We've still got Barton Peveril and Farnborough to play twice and have another game at Itchen, so it's far from all over - the opposite, in fact," he stressed.

Nonetheless, PSC powered forward with another impressive win, thumping Queen Mary's 7-0 with Harry Bayles and Max Kirwan each scoring doubles.

Jamie Howells, Kristian Jukes and Pete Thatcher wrapped things up.

ESFA Colleges Cup semi-finalists Farnborough are always a difficult side to beat on their own patch - as a weakened Barton Peveril side found to their cost, losing 5-3.

Two early Liam Whyte headers gave Boro' a perfect start, but a Jamie Barnes penalty, awarded for a foul by Cam Smith, trimmed their lead back to 2-1.

Charlie Bushell stretched FB's lead, but a Josh Clark brace enabled BP to go in level 3-3 at the break.

Barton were left to rue some



Jake Dellimore scores for Itchen against Richard Tauntons. Below: Tauntons celebrate Efu Kazadi's goal

missed second-half chances - goalkeeper Matt Russell celebrating his Hampshire call-up for today's SAT ESFA County Cup third round visit to Kent by making two fine saves - and there was no coming back from two more Liam Whyte headers which gave Farnborough a 5-3 win.

Barton Peveril, who were minus arguably their best five players for the trip, have now dropped seven points this season, compared with ten by Itchen, who romped to a 5-1 win over Richard Tauntons in the dress rehearsal for the Peter Munro Cup semi-final derby on Wednesday week.

The match at Hill Lane was preceded by a minute's applause in memory of RTC student Jack Downing who passed away earlier in the week.

Itchen nosed in front on ten minutes when attacking full back Jean-Luc Randim's cross shot



went in off the far post.

Throwing caution to the wind, Itchen were caught on the break when the powerful strong running Efu Kazadi equalised on 27 minutes after earlier hitting the post.

With half-time looming, Jake Dellimore restored Itchen's advantage.

RTC captain Fred Molyneux put through his own goal early in the second half and by the hour mark Jack Barnes and a powerful drive

by Mike Yeomans had taken the game beyond RTC. Neither side were able to convert numerous chances thereafter with Itchen endeavouring to score the "perfect goal" as they ran out comfortable 5-1 winners.

B Division pacemakers Poole Grammar frittered away a 4-1 lead at South Downs and were left holding on at the end as their hosts clawed it back to 4-4.

Tom Smith (2), Kieran Denty and Dash Howarth eased PGS into a 4-1 lead with 20 minutes to go, but Dan Crutchley's side were a relieved bunch climbing back on to their mini-bus.

● Wednesday's fixtures

A Division: Barton Peveril v Andover, Brockenhurst v Richard Taunton, Farnborough v Sparsholt, Queen Mary's v Itchen. B Division: Alton v Havant, Bournemouth v Poole Grammar, Chichester v Portsmouth.



PINK

## Government announces levy reform boost for racing

THE Government has announced plans to reform the Levy which ensures all operators who takes bets on British racing from customers based in Britain will have to pay ten per cent of their gross profits above the first £500,000 they make.

The current system has been in existence since 1961 but has become outdated and while some offshore firms have been making voluntary contributions towards British racing, it is not compulsory.

The Government is hoping to implement the new scheme in April this year - subject to state aid for the proposals - and it will be enforced via a statutory Horserace Betting Levy.

Sports Minister Tracey Crouch said: "This move will help secure the future of horseracing in Britain by making sure that gambling firms pay a fair return to support the sport.

"Horseracing has a strong heritage in this

country, employing thousands of people and is enjoyed by many almost every day of the year.

"This new approach to the Horserace Betting Levy will help sustain and develop the sport."

The sports minister will review the rate set within seven years of the new legislation to reflect any future changes in the market.

It all spells the end of the Horserace Betting Levy Board which will be wound up

as the Government intends to transfer responsibility for collecting the Levy to the Gambling Commission in early 2018.

The announcement follows long periods of consultation between the betting and racing industries and the Government hopes it will ensure a level playing field between betting operators offshore and those based in Britain. The aim of the levy is to fund a wide range of areas including prize money, integrity and equine welfare among others.

# Arkle, Dessie and king Kauto Star

Kempton has seen many memorable moments since it opened its gates to racing in 1878.

Here, the Sports Pink selects five of the greatest races at the Sunbury course

## ARKLE

(1966 King George VI Chase)

The best ever steeplechaser ran just the twice at Kempton and after easily landing the prohibitive odds of 1-7 in 1965, was expected to follow-up the following winter. Sadly, he was injured during the race which resulted in a shock defeat to Dormant. Amazingly, Tom Dreaper's superstar was in the lead until the closing stages. The crowd was in a state of disbelief and it was only later the truth emerged that Arkle had fractured the main bone of his off-fore hoof. The Irish legend never raced again.

## DAWN RUN

(1983 Christmas Hurdle)

Dawn Run is one of the many top-class hurdlers to have taken in Kempton on their way to Champion Hurdle glory. It was felt the sharp track would not suit the Irish mare, but she proved her critics wrong with a battling display to defeat Gaye Brief. The latter had a pacemaker in Migrator, but that was not enough to shake off Dawn Run, who put it up to Gaye Brief over the last two flights and got the verdict by a neck after an enthralling duel.

## DESERT ORCHID

(1990 King George VI Chase)

The popular grey made the race virtually his own with victories in 1986 and from 1988 to 1990. His exuberant style of jumping endeared him to the racing public and he produced a typically Dessie-style performance. Jumping boldly, he was left in the lead when Sabin Du Loir fell at the sixth fence from the finish. From then on, it was plain sailing and David Elsworth's ace went on to



Ruby Walsh celebrates his victory on Kauto Star at Kempton in 2011.

score by 12 lengths from Toby Tobias in the hands of Richard Dunwoody.

## GRUNDY

(1974 Sirenia Stakes)

Grundy is best remembered for his epic battle with Bustino in the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth stakes at Ascot in July 1975, but he graced Kempton's turf course as part of his education

as a two-year-old. Peter Walwyn's flashy chestnut had won nicely on his debut in July and followed up a month later with a convincing win against decent opposition in the Sirenia. He went on to be champion two-year-old with wins in the Champagne and Dewhurst Stakes.

## KAUTO STAR

(2011 King George VI Chase)

Kauto Star surpassed Desert Orchid's great achievement by going one better with a fifth win in the Christmas showpiece. Successful from 2006-2009, it looked like Paul Nicholls' crackerjack performer was going to have to settle for just equalling the grey after he had been beaten by Long Run the following season. But he came back to take his revenge just days short of his 12th birthday.

## Kempton's history

Kempton has enjoyed and endured a colourful history since the racecourse opened nearly 140 years ago.

**1872:** The 400-hundred acre Kempton Park, complete with manor house, is leased by Thomas Barnett to S H Hyde, a businessman with a vision for racing, after he spotted an estate agent's sign during a trip to the London area.

**1878:** After Hyde leased part of the estate to the newly-formed Kempton Park Racecourse Company of which he was secretary, the track opens its doors in July with Dunkenny, trained by John Porter and ridden by George Fordham, taking the very first event run.

**1932:** In September, a fire destroys most of the members' stand, grill room and Tattersalls bar. The course is closed until May 1933.

**1937:** The inaugural running of the King George VI Chase, in the monarch's coronation year, is won by Southern Hero.

**1969:** David Robinson, businessman and leading racehorse owner, buys the racecourse for £765,000 after outbidding building firm Taylor Woodrow. Just over a year later he sells on to the Levy Board. Control passes to its subsidiary United Racecourses, which is already administering Sandown and Epsom.

**1972:** The Goya Stakes, the first race in modern times for women riders and run on May 6, is won by Meriel Tufnell on her mother's horse, Scorched Earth, at odds of 50-1.

**2005:** San Antonio wins the final Flat race on turf on May 2 as the course closes for 10 months to complete work on an all-weather Polytrack with floodlights.

**2006:** The first winner on the new surface is Akona Matata, trained by Clive Brittain and ridden by Jimmy Fortune, on March 25.

**2017:** The Jockey Club announces plans that could see the site closed as early as 2021 for housing.





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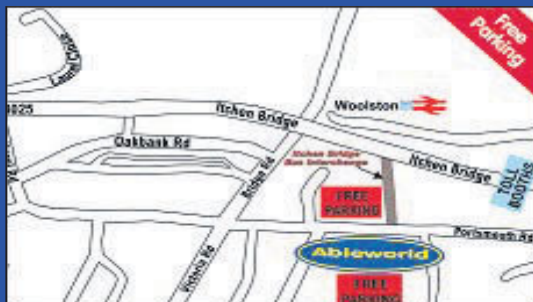
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# RESULTS

## SATURDAY'S FOOTBALL RESULTS AND TABLES

### Premier League

Burnley	1	SAINTS	0
Barton 78			
HT 0-0			
Hull	3	AFC Bournemouth	1
Hernandez 32,50			
Mings 52 og			
HT 1-1			
Leicester	L	Chelsea	L
Sunderland	1	Stoke	0
Defoe 40			
HT 1-0			
Swansea	0	Arsenal	4
HT 0-1			
Tottenham Hotspur	4	W.B.A.	0
Kane 12,77,82			
McAuley 26 og			
HT 2-0			
Watford	0	Middlesbrough	0
HT 0-0			
West Ham	3	Crystal P	0
Carroll 79			
Lanzini 86			
HT 0-0			

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Chelsea	20	9	0	1	28	6	7	1	2	14	9	49			
Tottenham	21	9	2	0	25	5	4	4	2	18	9	45			
Arsenal	21	7	2	1	21	10	6	3	3	27	12	44			
Liverpool	20	7	2	0	26	7	6	3	3	22	16	44			
Man City	20	6	3	1	19	10	7	6	3	0	22	42			
Man Utd	20	5	4	1	16	9	6	2	2	0	15	38			
Everton	20	5	4	1	15	7	3	2	5	13	16	30			
W.B.A.	21	5	2	3	19	14	3	3	5	9	14	27			
Stoke	21	4	3	3	13	13	3	3	3	14	20	29			
Burnley	21	8	1	3	20	11	0	1	8	3	20	26			
Bournemouth	21	5	2	3	19	15	2	2	2	6	19	23			
West Ham	21	5	2	4	12	16	2	2	2	6	14	25			
SAINTS	21	4	3	3	10	11	2	3	6	9	15	24			
Watford	21	4	3	4	15	17	2	2	2	6	8	19			
Leicester	20	5	3	2	16	10	0	3	7	8	21	21			
Middlesbrough	21	3	2	5	9	10	1	6	4	8	12	20			
Crystal P	21	2	1	7	13	15	2	3	6	17	25	16			
Hull	21	3	3	5	14	21	1	1	8	6	24	16			
Sunderland	21	3	2	6	14	20	1	1	8	6	20	15			
Swansea	21	2	2	7	14	27	2	1	7	9	22	15			

### SkyBet Championship

Birmingham	0	Nottm For	0
HT 0-0			
Brentford	1	Newcastle	2
Vice 52			
HT 0-1			
Bristol C	2	Cardiff	3
Murphy 51 og			
Abram 78			
HT 0-0			
Burton Albion	0	Wigan	2
HT 0-0			
Fulham	2	Barnsley	0
Martin 45 pen			
Malone 55			
HT 1-0			
Ipswich	3	Blackburn	2
Lawrence 38,57			
Berra 54			
HT 1-1			
Preston North End	0	Brighton	0
Huntington 13			
Robinson 53			
HT 1-0			
Rotherham	2	Norwich	1
Yates 7			
Adjeiye 55			
HT 1-0			
Sheff Wed	2	Huddersfield	0
Wallace 54			
Forster 90			
HT 0-0			
Wolves	L	A. Villa	L
HT 1-1			

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Newcastle	26	8	0	4	26	13	10	1	3	24	8	55			
Brighton	25	9	2	1	25	6	7	4	2	15	11	54			
Leeds Utd	26	9	2	3	19	9	6	1	5	16	15	48			
Reading	25	8	3	2	20	10	6	1	5	16	23	46			
Huddersfield	26	8	2	2	17	6	6	2	6	13	46				
Sheff Wed	26	9	1	3	18	11	4	5	4	5	12	45			
Derby City	26	6	4	3	12	5	5	3	5	12	14	40			
Fulham	25	5	5	4	25	18	5	4	2	18	12	39			
Preston NE	26	6	3	5	20	16	5	3	4	15	16	39			
Barnsley	26	5	4	4	23	21	6	1	6	20	18	38			
Norwich	26	8	1	3	24	11	3	3	8	18	28	37			
Birmingham	26	6	4	4	19	18	3	5	4	11	17	36			
A. Villa	25	6	6	0	19	10	2	5	6	7	14	35			
Ipswich	26	6	5	3	19	14	3	2	7	9	17	34			
Brentford	26	5	4	4	19	13	4	2	7	14	20	33			
Q.P.R.	26	4	3	6	12	19	5	2	6	13	17	32			
Cardiff	25	5	2	6	14	18	3	4	4	16	22	30			
Wolves	25	3	3	6	17	22	4	5	5	15	12	29			
Bristol C	26	6	1	6	17	16	2	2	9	16	22	27			
Nottm For	26	5	4	4	21	19	2	3	9	16	22	27			
Burton Alb	26	5	2	6	13	12	1	5	7	13	24	25			
Blackburn	26	4	4	5	19	21	2	2	9	12	22	24			
Wigan	26	2	3	7	14	20	3	4	7	14	17	22			
Rotherham	26	2	4	8	17	20	0	1	12	10	16	22			

### SkyBet League One

AFC Wimbledon	2	Oxford Utd	1
Eastwood 12 og			
Kelly 28			
HT 2-1			
Bolton	1	Swindon	0
Wheeler 48			
HT 0-0			

### POOLS CHECK

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
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Bury	5	Peterboro	1
Vaughan 7,17,24,27, Miller 71			
HT 4-1			
Charlton	0	Millwall	0
HT 0-0			
Chesterfield	1	Coventry	0
Gardner 77			
HT 2-0			
Fleetwood Town	3	Bristol R	1
Hunter 13			
Bolger 23, Ball 82			
HT 1-0			
Northampton	1	Scunthorpe	2
Arnautovic 15,22, Crouch 34			
HT 1-0			
Swansea	0	Arsenal	4
Grind 37, Cork 54 og			
Naughton 67 og, Sanchez 73			
HT 0-0			
Tottenham Hotspur	4	W.B.A.	0
Kane 12,77,82			
McAuley 26 og			
HT 2-0			
Watford	0	Middlesbrough	0
HT 0-0			
West Ham	3	Crystal P	0
Carroll 79			
Lanzini 86			
HT 0-0			

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Sheff Utd	27	10	1	2	21	8	7	4	3	30	22	56			
Scunthorpe	27	8	5	0	30	10	8	2	4	23	16	55			
Bolton	26	9	3	2	22	10	6	2	4	13	50	45			
Bradford	27	6	8	0	21	9	5	4	4	12	13	45			
Rochdale	26	10	1	2	28	9	4	2	7	13	23	45			
Flitghed 7,29,32,11,25,19,32,32,14,16,43															
Southend	27	7	5	3	25	16	4	4	4	14	16	42			
Millwall	26	7	3	2	22	12	4	3	6	19	27	39			
Bristol R	27	8	3	3	29	19	3	3	7	17	28	39			
Peterboro	25	5	3	24	15	5	3	4	15	16	38				
Charlton	26	5	5	3	18	10	3	7	3	15	16	36			
Wimbledon	26	5	4	2	16	8	4	5	4	12	16	36			
Oxford Utd	26	6	4	3	16	11	3	3	7	14	19	34			
Walsall	26	5	4	2	21	20	3	6	4	9	14	34			
Port Vale	25	7	3	3	21	15	1	4	7	6	22	31			
Northampton	27	4	2	7	20	20	4	4	6	16	23	30			
Gillingham	26	5	4	3	16	12	3	2	9	16	29	30			
Swindon	27	5	3	5	14	12	2	5	7	13	28	29			
M K Dons	25	2	4	7	14	23	5	3	4	15	11	28			
Bury	27	5	0	8	23	24	2	4	8	18	29	25			
Sheff Utd	27	4	3	6	13	16	2	4	8	13	24	25			
Chesterfield	27	6	2	5	18	19	1	2	11	10	26	25			
Oldham	26	5	2	5	11	1	5	6	8	16	22	21			
Coventry	26	3	6	3	13	11	1	2	10	10	27	21			

### SkyBet League Two

Barnet	1	Doncaster	3
Akinde 13			
HT 1-3			
Cambridge	0	Blackpool	0
HT 0-0			
Carlisle	1	Morecambe	1
Wyke 74			
HT 0-1			
Cheltenham	3	Acc Stanley	0
Slingsby, De Girolamo 74			
Waters 78			
HT 0-0			
Crawley	1	Hartlepool	0
Collins 63			
HT 0-0			
Crews	1	Luton	0
Low 28			
HT 1-1			
Grimsby	0	Exeter	0
Reid 41, Wheeler 59			
Watkins 80			
HT 0-1			
Newport County	1	Colchester	1
Sheehan 23			
HT 1-1			
Notts City	0	Mansfield	0
HT 0-0			
Plymouth	4	Stevenage	2
Sliew 35, Jarvis 42			
Garratt 54, Goodwillie 90			
HT 1-1			
POMPEY	2	Leyton O	0
Chaplin 22,47			
HT 1-1			
Wycombe	1	Yeovil	1
Jackson 26 pen			
HT 1-1			

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt</
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